SUZUKA

Kouji Seo

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY

David Ury

LETTERED BY

North Market Street Graphics

DEL REY

BALLANTINE BOOKS • NEW YORK

A Note from the Author

BY THE TIME THIS COMIC COMES OUT, THE SUZUKA *ANIME WILL BE ON TV. MY OWN MANGA WILL BE MADE INTO A REAL-LIFE ANIME. IT'S LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE! I'M GOING TO HAVE TO STAY UP LATE SO I CAN WATCH IT.*

7

SUZUKA

KOUJI SEO

SUZUKA

7

Kouji Seo

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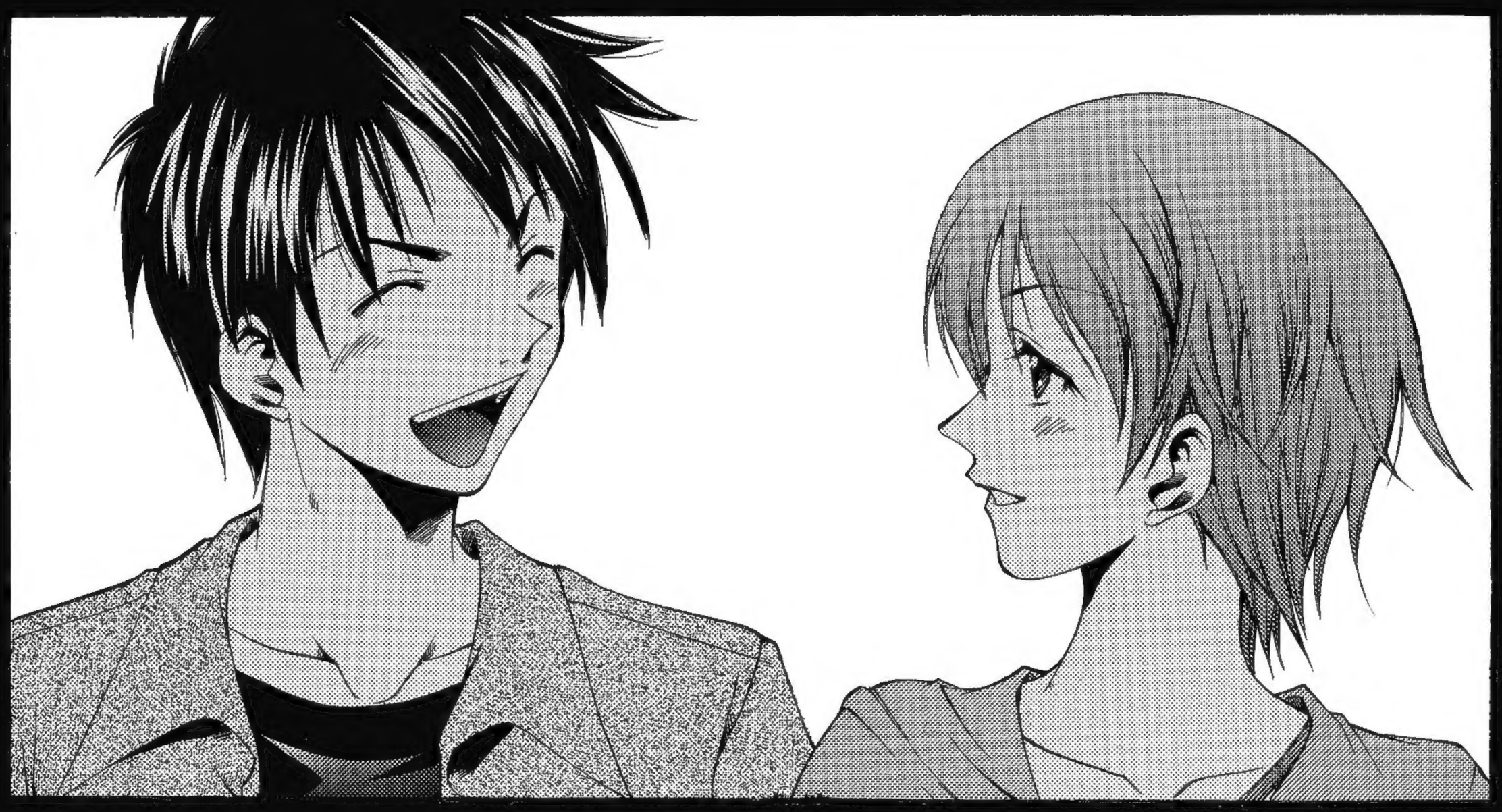
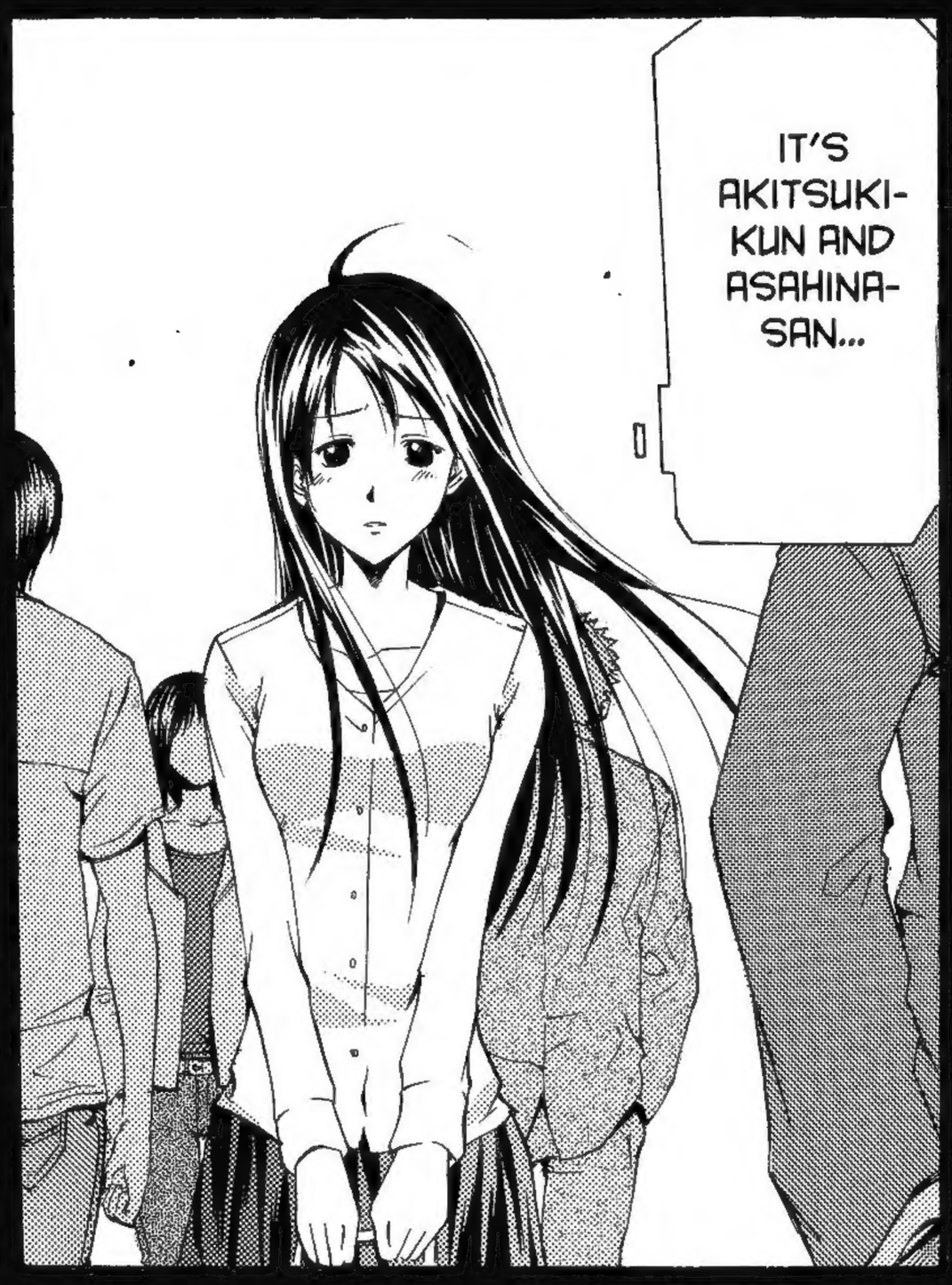


SUZUKA

#50 THE GIFT



AAWW-WWW, GOOD MORN-ING.

FIX ME A CUP OF TEA, WILL YA, AYANO-SAN.

ASAI-KUN

BY THE WAY, YAMATO-KUN.

HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT TO GET FOR HONOKA-CHAN?

JUST BECAUSE IT'S YOUR DAY OFF DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN SLEEP ALL DAY, YAMATO-KUN.

I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOUR BREAKFAST ON THE TABLE FOREVER, YOU KNOW?

YEAH, YOU ARE SUCH A SLACKER, YAMATO-KUN.

YEAH, YEAH, SORRY.

.....

REALLY? I DON'T KNOW IF I TRUST YOUR TASTE THOUGH.

YEAH, I GOT A REALLY CUTE NECKLACE FOR HER.

SHE'LL LOVE IT WON'T SHE, GORO-CHAN?

IT'S REALLY CUTE.

ゴロ～ PURR

ゴロ… PURR

RIGHT?!

... HUH?

GUESS I'LL GO GIVE IT TO HER.

ガラ

ガラ SLIDE

W-WELL, UM ...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ASAHINA? I THOUGHT YOU WENT BACK TO YOUR ROOM.

UH... UM,

YEAH...? I DON'T KNOW... I'M STILL WORRIED.

DON'T WORRY. I WON'T SAY ANY-THING.

YOU ALWAYS SAY THE WRONG THING AND RUIN EVERY-THING!

JUST DON'T SAY ANYTHING STU-PID TO HONOKA-CHAN, ALL RIGHT?

YOU THOUGHT IT WAS CUTE, RIGHT?

... YOU SHOULD TRUST YOUR-SELF.

HEY, DO YOU REALLY THINK THIS IS A GOOD GIFT FOR HER?

NOW I'M NOT SO SURE.

OKAY.

I'M GONNA GO GIVE IT TO HER RIGHT NOW!!

Y-YEAH...

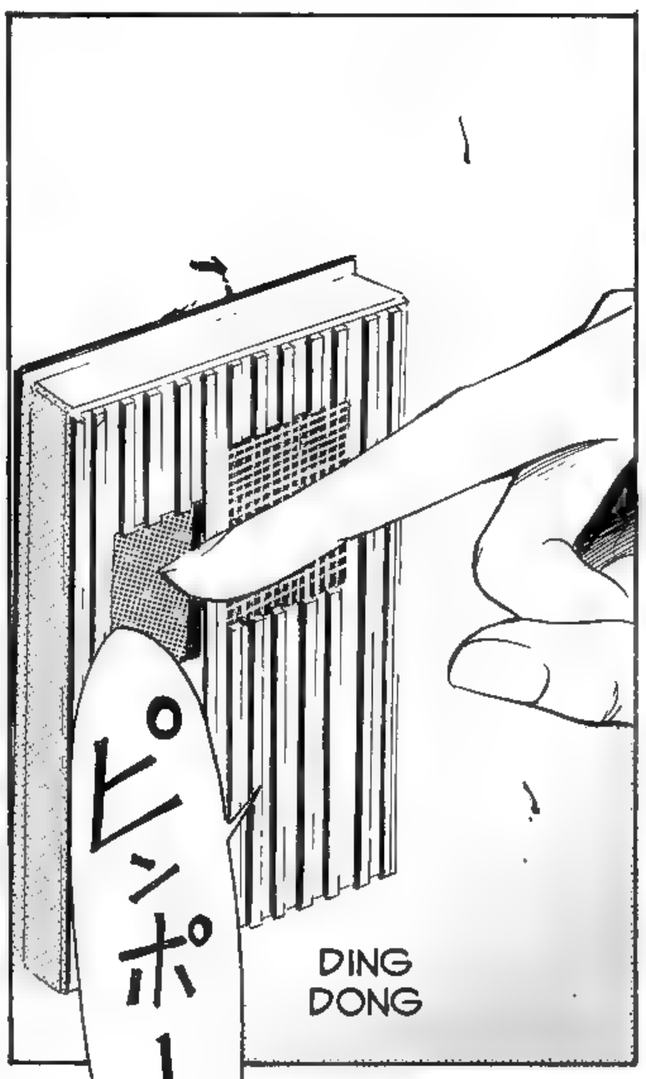
YOU'RE RIGHT.

WHAT...?

SAKURAI

SHE'S GONNA LOVE IT!
IT'LL BE FINE.

YES.
CLOP
CLOP
H-HERE SHE COMES !!


ピンポーン
DING DONG

H-HI!!

HELLO!!

ガラ SLIDE

ガラ SLIDE

...AKITSUKI-KUN.

!!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE SO EARLY?

U-UM, WELL...

I JUST WANTED TO SAY...

H-HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Y-
YEAH!!

ALL RIGHT,
SHE
LOOKS
REALLY
HAPPY!!!

THANKS.

SO
YOU DID
KNOW IT
WAS MY
BIRTHDAY
HUH,
AKITSUKI-
KUN?

UH...
ACTUALLY...
AKITSUKI-
KUN...

I DIDN'T
SAY
ANYTHING,
BECAUSE
I WANTED
IT TO BE A
SURPRISE!

I THINK
IT JUST
SLIPPED
OUT...SHE
SEEMED
REALLY
SORRY.

...
WHAT
?!

I
HEARD ALL
ABOUT
IT FROM
YUUKA-
SAN
LAST
NIGHT.

THAT
LITTLE
BITCH. SHE
TOTALLY
DID IT
ON
PURPOSE
!!

TCH
...

SHE TOLD
ME THAT
YOU WENT
OUT TO
BUY A
PRESENT
FOR ME...

THANK YOU SO MUCH, AKITSUKI-KUN...

BUT I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN I HEARD HER SAY THAT.

...LIKE YUUKA-SAN TOLD ME TO...

I WAS GONNA TRY TO PRETEND THAT I WAS SUR-PRISED...

W-WELL...

EVEN ABOUT THAT.

BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO LIE TO YOU!

LIE TO ME...?

OH...

THEN I GUESS... IT'S ALL GOOD.

BUT I ACTUALLY WENT OUT WITH ASAHINA TO...

ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN LYING...

YASU-NOBU!! I MADE PLANS TO HANG OUT WITH YASU-NOBU!!

YOU ALWAYS SAY THE WRONG THING AND RUIN EVERY-THING!

JUST DON'T SAY ANYTHING STUPID TO HONOKA-CHAN, ALL RIGHT?

W-WELL.....

THE TRUTH IS THAT I DIDN'T ACTUALLY GO SHOPPING WITH YASUNOBU. I WENT...

...?

WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT
!?

Y-YOU
KNEW!?

YEAH...
I
HAPPENED
TO SEE YOU
GUYS WHEN
I WENT
SHOPPING
YESTERDAY
...

YEAH,
I
KNOW.

OH..
UH...

BUT
WE
WEREN'T
DOING
ANYTHING
WEIRD...

...
WITH
ASAHINA-
SAN...

RIGHT
?

YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO PICK OUT SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL FOR ME, RIGHT?

WHAT...

I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CHOOSE A GOOD PRESENT ON MY OWN, SO...

Y-YEAH!! EXACTLY.

HEH, I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE JUST TOLD HER THE TRUTH TO BEGIN WITH.

H-HEY, WHY DON'T YOU OPEN IT?!

OKAY.

WELL THEN IT...

DOESN'T REALLY BOTHER ME.

O-OKAY!

HUH...?

BOY, GOING SHOPPING WITH ASAHINA WAS SUCH A DRAG!

SHE TOOK ME AROUND EVERY-WHERE, SAYING "HOW ABOUT THIS ONE. HOW ABOUT THAT ONE."

WE WALKED ALL THE WAY TO SHIBUYA AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW IT WAS ALREADY GETTING DARK.

.....

OH... REALLY..

AND ASAHINA GOT ALL GRUMPY...

YEAH, AND I WAS SO HUNGRY AND TIRED.

.....

I SHOULD'VE JUST GONE BY MYSELF!

AND AFTER ALL THAT, I FOUND THE BEST GIFT ALL ON MY OWN.

WHY...

...DO YOU ALWAYS LOOK SO HAPPY WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT HER...?

HE NEVER LOOKS THAT HAPPY WHEN HE'S WITH ME.

THAT ALWAYS HAPPENS WHEN I GO OUT SHOPPING WITH HER.

THAT'S ENOUGH ALREADY...

...WHAT?

W-WHAT? DID I SAY SOME-THING BAD ...?

I SAID THAT'S ENOUGH!

I DON'T...

...WANNA HEAR ANY-MORE...

HERE...

YOU CAN HAVE THIS BACK...

WHAT?

SLAM

SLIDE

TAPPA

TAPPA

AH! HONOKA-CHAN!!

TSSS

I DON'T WANNA HEAR..

'MY ∞ RECIPES'

...YOUR STUPID STORY...

AKITSUKI-KUN, YOU BIG JERK...!

旭湯

I DID IT AGAIN...

I AM SUCH AN ASS-HOLE...

HUH?

KNOCK

KNOCK

...

WHAT IS IT?

. . . . . .

I JUST WANTED TO KNOW IF HONOKA-CHAN LIKED IT OR NOT...

SO HOW DID IT GO?

WHAT?

I TOLD HER ABOUT US GOING SHOPPING TOGETHER AND SHE GAVE IT BACK TO ME.

Y-YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T GIVE IT TO HER?!

...HERE.

YOU ARE SO CLUELESS.

YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT GIRLS, DO YOU?

SO I WAS JUST TELLING HER ABOUT IT AND ALL OF A SUDDEN SHE GOT REALLY MAD...

WELL, SHE ALREADY KNEW THAT WE WENT SHOP-PING TOGETH-ER...

OH MY GOD . . .

HUH . . . ?

I'M SORRY...

GUESS I MADE YOU SPEND ALL THAT TIME WITH ME FOR NOTHING...

.....

I-I DON'T MIND THAT, BUT...

UM...

THINK ABOUT WHAT I DID...?

PLUNK

SLAM

YOU BETTER THINK LONG AND HARD ABOUT WHAT YOU DID!!

AH...

WELL, OKAY, MAYBE I WAS BEING A LITTLE INSENSI-TIVE BUT...

DID SHE REALLY HAVE TO GET *THAT* MAD?

#51 IGNORED

SUZUKA

THAT'S RIGHT!

SHE GAVE YOU BACK THE PRESENT?

BUT WHEN I TOLD HER THE STORY ABOUT ASAHINA DRAGGING ME AROUND THE TOWN, SHE SUDDENLY GOT ALL PISSED.

SHE SAID SHE WASN'T MAD AT ME FOR GOING SHOPPING WITH ASAHINA.

HUH? YEAH...

PLUNK

SO, SHE SAID SHE WASN'T MAD ABOUT YOU GOING SHOPPING WITH SUZUKA-CHAN?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?! IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE AT ALL.

HUH ?

...YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?

BECAUSE SHE LIKES YOU.

DON'T YOU GET IT? SHE WAS JUST ACTING LIKE SHE DIDN'T CARE.

CHILI

W-WAIT A SECOND!! I NEVER EVEN WENT OUT WITH ASAHINA...

IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN IF YOU WENT OUT WITH HASHIBA OR YUUKA-SAN.

OF COURSE. DID YOU SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THAT ANY GIRL WOULD BE COOL WITH HER BOYFRIEND GOING OUT SHOPPING WITH HIS EX?

ACTING ...?

SO TO SAKURAI, YOU TWO MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN A COUPLE.

YEAH, BUT YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH HER UP UNTIL A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

YOU WERE JUST TRYING TO PICK OUT SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL FOR ME, RIGHT?

...YEAH, I KNOW.

BUT EVEN SO, SHE TRIED TO ACCEPT YOUR GIFT WITHOUT MAKING AN ISSUE OUT OF IT.

THEN YOU HAD TO GO AND RUB IT IN BY GIVING HER ALL THE GORY DETAILS.

I SEARCHED ALL OVER THE PLACE FOR THE PERFECT GIFT BEFORE I FINALLY FOUND SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR HER...

I REALLY TRIED HARD!

IT ALWAYS COMES BACK TO THE SAME THING, MAN. YOU ONLY THINK ABOUT YOURSELF!

TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE!!

.....

THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. THAT'S WHAT'S SO SELFISH ABOUT IT.

ALL YOU EVER END UP DOING IS PISSING OFF SAKURAI...

THE LONGER YOU WAIT, THE HARDER IT'S GONNA GET.

ANYWAY, YOU'VE GOTTA APOLOGIZE RIGHT AWAY.

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!

I CAN HANDLE THIS ON MY OWN.

WHAT-EVER...

OH, SHUT THE HELL UP!!

I'VE NEVER GOTTEN ANYWHERE BY LISTENING TO YOUR SHITTY ADVICE!!

AH... YAMA-TO!

FWOOSH

SHUT UP!!

LIKE, YOU'RE NOT GONNA GO APOLO-GIZE TO HER RIGHT NOW...

YOINK キョロ

YOINK キョロ

I PROBABLY SHOULD GO APOLOGIZE . . .

I GUESS . . .

ALL RIGHT, GUYS, LET'S GET WARMED UP!

OKAY!

THERE SHE IS.

HONOKA-CHAN!!

STEP

U-UM...

ABOUT YESTER-DAY...

.....

H-HEY! WAIT, WAIT A SECOND!

FWOOSH

I WANNA TALK TO YOU ABOUT YESTERDAY

...

I DON'T WANNA TALK TO YOU RIGHT NOW, AKITSUKI-KUN.

I'M SORRY, BUT...

WHAT . . .

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.

. . . . . .

W-WHY?

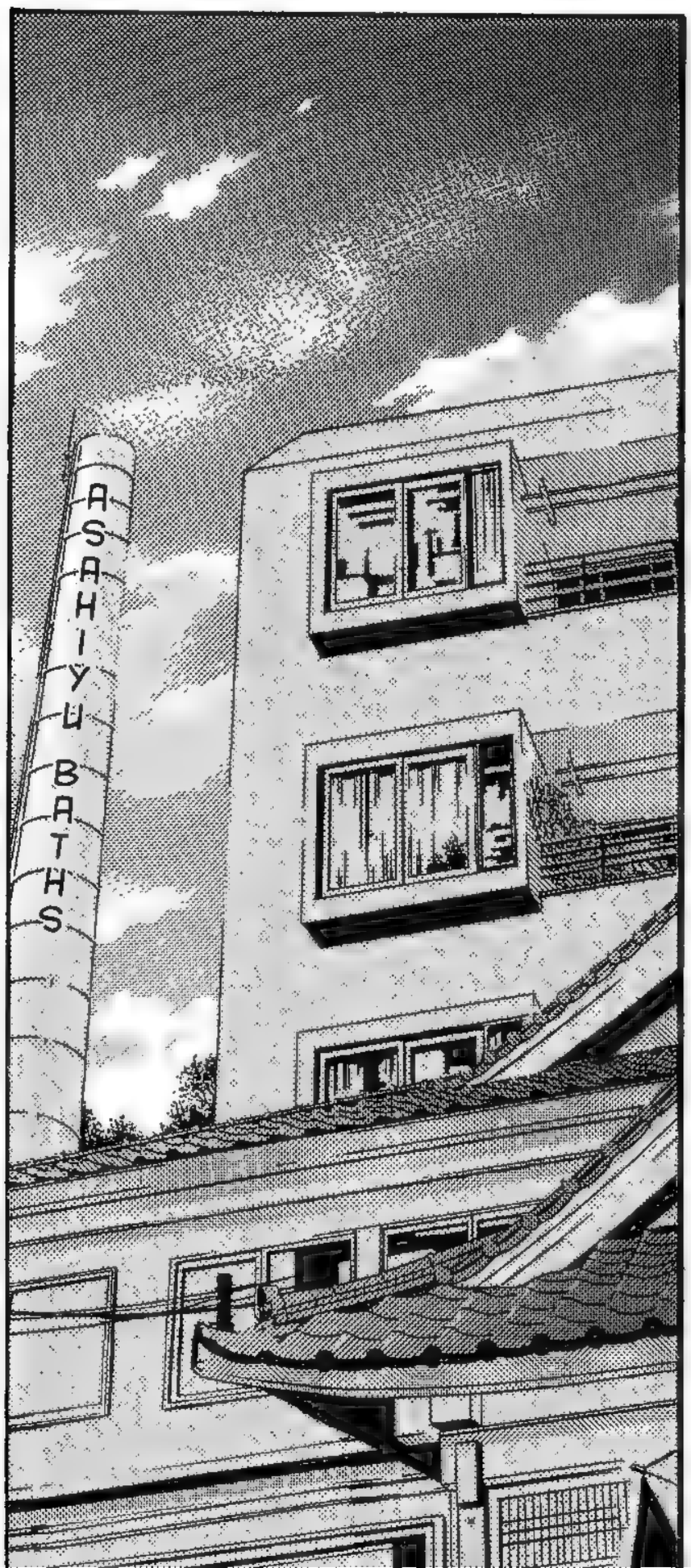
WILL YOU AT LEAST LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?

AH...

FWOOSH

HEY, MANAGER!!

...COMING!


ASAHIYU BATHS

YAMATO-KUN.

...
HUH?

AH... YAMATO-KUN.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ASAHINA?

DID YOU AND HONOKA-CHAN MAKE UP?

NOT EXACTLY . . .

SHE WON'T EVEN TALK TO ME.

OH, UH...

WHAT...

WHAT?

I'M SORRY. . . .

I JUST WANTED TO SAY SORRY, BUT SHE WOULDN'T EVEN LET ME DO THAT.

. . . . . .

WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?

BE-CAUSE . . .

ASAHIYU BATHS

IF I HADN'T GONE SHOPPING WITH YOU, YOU TWO NEVER WOULD'VE GOTTEN INTO A FIGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THAT'S WHY I SAID SORRY...

BUT...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I WAS THE ONE WHO MADE YOU COME ALONG.

YASUNOBU WAS RIGHT.

I WAS BEING TOTALLY INCONSID-ERATE. IT WAS ALL MY FAULT.

SO YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL BAD AT ALL.

YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!

OKAY...

.....

SHE SAID SHE DOESN'T EVEN WANNA TALK TO YOU, RIGHT?

BUT, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO NOW...?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

...YEAH.

HUH?

.....

I REALLY DIDN'T THINK SHE WAS THAT MAD.

I'M PRETTY SURE SHE HATES ME NOW...

WHAT . . . ?

THAT'S NOT TRUE...

I'M SURE SHE'LL TALK TO YOU IF YOU TRY HARD ENOUGH.

EVEN IF SHE IS ANGRY...

...YEAH.

D-DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?

I THINK SO.

WHY DON'T YOU TRY CALLING HER AGAIN?

RIGHT NOW.

TRUST ME!

I-I DON'T KNOW.

...YEAH.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...

...ALL RIGHT.

IT'S WORTH A TRY.

I HOPE...

...YOU GUYS CAN WORK THINGS OUT.

301

NHK

YAMATO AKITSUKI

THANKS FOR HELPING ME OUT.

I BET YAMATO-KUN WAS SO FOCUSED ON FINDING THE PERFECT PRESENT FOR YOU, THAT HE WASN'T EVEN THINK-ING ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE..

I MEAN... HE'S LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW... HE'S CLUELESS.

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

...YEAH.

I MEAN, I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL.

OF COURSE I AM.

WHAT...?

BUT, IT SURE DIDN'T LOOK THAT WAY...

I'M SURE THAT HIM GOING SHOP-PING WITH SUZUKA-CHAN IT WAS NO DIDN'T BIG MEAN DEAL... ANY-THING.

I THINK HE STILL LIKES ASAHINA-SAN...

I WONDER...

...IF WE SHOULD EVEN BE TOGETHER.

HUMM...

ツー！！

BEEP

ツー！！

BEEP

THAT'S WEIRD...

IT'S STILL BUSY...

SUZUKA

...IF WE SHOULD EVEN BE TOGETHER.

I WON-DER...

I'M SURE SHE'LL TO TALK TO YOU IF YOU TRY HARD ENOUGH.

EVEN IF SHE IS ANGRY...

FWAP

ﾋﾟﾛﾝ

BEEP

ッ!..

BEEP

ッ!..

IT'S STILL BUSY...

WELL...

FWICK

SUZUKA

#52 PARTING

I DON'T WANNA TALK TO YOU RIGHT NOW, AKITSUKI-KUN.

I'M SORRY, BUT...

.....

STEP

STEP

COMING!

.....

STAND-ING AROUND WOR-RYING ABOUT IT ISN'T GONNA HELP ANY-THING!

DING

DONG

I'VE GOTTA MAKE A MOVE!!

H-
HEY...

...
AKITSUKI-
KUN.

WELL...
I TRIED
CALLING,
BUT I
COULDN'T
GET
THROUGH.

W-WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?
IT'S SO
LATE...

I...

...REALLY
WANT
YOU TO
HAVE
THIS.

...
HERE.

I TOLD YOU, I DON'T WANT IT ...

.....

WAIT!!

IF THAT'S WHY YOU CAME HERE THEN PLEASE, JUST GO.

HEY.....

I HEARD IT WAS YOUR BIRTHDAY, SO I TRIED AS HARD AS I COULD TO COME UP WITH A GOOD GIFT FOR YOU.

SO...WHY CAN'T YOU JUST BE HAPPY?

I TRIED TO BE HAPPY...

: : : : WHAT ?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON!

IF YOU'VE GOT SOME-THING TO SAY THEN JUST SAY IT?!

BUT YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING SO MUCH FUN SHOPPING FOR MY PRESENT WITH ASAHINA-SAN...

HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO BE HAPPY!

I ALREADY TOLD YOU, I ONLY DID THAT BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO GET YOU, SO I HAD TO...

YOU COULD'VE ASKED SOMEONE ELSE!!

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE ASAHINA-SAN?!

...WANTED TO GO OUT WITH HER!

MAYBE YOU JUST...

I KNOW THAT'S THE TRUTH.

NO IT ISN'T!!

W-WHAT? THAT'S RIDICU-LOUS!!

YOU CAN MAKE ALL THE EXCUSES YOU WANT, BUT I CAN TELL... EVERY TIME I LOOK AT YOU I CAN TELL!

YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT ASAHINA-SAN.

YOU STILL LIKE ASAHINA-SAN DON'T YOU?!

WAY MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER LIKE ME...

ALL RIGHT, ENOUGH ALREADY! JUST SHUT UP!

I DON'T WANNA HEAR ANOTHER WORD ABOUT ASAHINA !!

FWAHHH

. . .
HEY !!

WHOOSH

THAT'S IT!! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS.

W- WAIT!!

WAIT A MINUTE !!

LEAVE ME ALONE!!

A-ARE YOU... ALL RIGHT...?

PANT

ハア

. . . . . .

ハア

PANT

WELL... BECAUSE YOU RUN SO SLOW...

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO CATCH UP TO ME...

YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT ASAHINA-SAN...

I CAN SEE WHAT SHE MEANS...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT

IT PROBABLY LOOKED LIKE I WAS HOPING SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN BETWEEN THE TWO OF US.

FOR SOME REASON, IT SEEMS LIKE I WAS ALWAYS AROUND ASAHINA...

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I MIGHT BE HURTING HONOKA-CHAN'S FEELINGS...

IF WE STAY TOGETHER...

WE'RE JUST GONNA KEEP HAVING THIS SAME FIGHT OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

MAY-BE...

WE SHOULD JUST BREAK UP.

.....

...MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.

...YEAH.

...YEAH.

CHIRP

CHIRP

CHIRP

CHIRP

...WHAT?

...YOU JERK!

.....I'M SORRY.

.....JERK

YOU NEVER SHOULD'VE SAID YOU WANTED TO BE WITH ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.

...WHAT?

I THOUGHT...

THEN WHY...?

N-NO!!

DID YOU GO OUT WITH ME JUST BECAUSE I KISSED YOU?

W-WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!

THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD...

I REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE CUTE!!

AND...

WHEN I WAS TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT TO GET YOU FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY...

EH...

YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT ASAHINA ALL THAT TIME!

WHEN WE WALKED TO SCHOOL TOGETHER...

AND WHEN YOU COOKED FOR ME...

I FELT LIKE I REALLY DID LOVE YOU.

.....

...YOU KNOWING HOW I REALLY FELT.

I DON'T WANT THIS TO END WITH-OUT...

W-WHY ARE YOU SAYING THIS? IT'S TOO LATE TO...

...

HEY.

.....

BE-CAUSE.....!

CAN I HAVE THE PRESENT?

...WHAT?

YEAH, SURE... BUT WHY NOW?

. . . WELL

IT DIDN'T LAST VERY LONG, BUT...

...AT LEAST I'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO REMIND ME OF WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER.

THANK YOU.

I'LL TREASURE IT ALWAYS...

UM...

HONOKA-CHAN...

. . . . . .

CAN WE JUST...

LOOK...

THAT WAS JUST MY WAY OF SAYING THANKS!

BYE...

. . . . . .

...OKAY.

BYE...

#53 THE WORST

SUZUKA

STEP
STEP
BOSS
CALPIS

BYE...

¥120
¥120

カ〜ン CLOP

カ〜ン CLOP

ASAHIYU BATHS

ASAHINA-SAN...

YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT...

NHK

SUZUKA ASAHINA

IS THAT TRUE...?

カ" CLICK

チャ

YAMATO AKITSUKI

HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT ASAHINA...

I DON'T EVEN KNOW MYSELF...

HEY, YOU'RE HOME LATE.

H-HOPE YOU DON'T MIND US HANGING OUT HERE...

SUNTORY

ピキッ

GRR

DON'T WORRY. I'M USED TO THIS KINDA STUFF NOW.

カチャ CLICK

I'M SORRY, YAMATO-KUN. SAOTOME-SAN MADE ME COME...

FIRST YOU SNEAK INTO MY ROOM AND NOW YOU'RE GONNA LECTURE ME, HUH?

A YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL BOY LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT SO LATE.

I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED ...

YOU WERE HOPING TO BRING HONOKA-CHAN BACK HERE AND DO SOMETHING NAUGHTY, BUT SHE TURNED YOU DOWN, RIGHT?

SUNTORY Cocktail Bar

PLUM WINE

WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD. WHY DON'T YOU COME JOIN US AND HAVE A DRINK?

SHUT UP... JUST GO HOME ALREADY.

OH, REALLY?

I WOULD NEVER DO THAT!

...SHIT!!

THEN WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

HERE, CATCH, MEGUMI-CHAN.

G-GIVE IT!!

FWUMP

IT SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A BALLOON ...

GIVE IT BA—

OHUH !?

WAH...

I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS KIND BEFORE.

HMMM...

WHAT'S WRONG? I JUST WANTED TO GET A 'YAMATO PUTS THE MOVES ON A COLLEGE CO-ED, WITH CONDOM IN HAND' SHOT.

FALUMP

FOR-GET IT. I WON'T BE NEEDING THAT THING ANYWAY.

WE JUST...

...BROKE UP.

WHAT? DID YOU GET INTO A FIGHT WITH HONOKA-CHAN OR SOME-THING?

.....

HUH? WHY?!

WHAT?!

SHE DIDN'T DUMP ME AND I DIDN'T DUMP HER...

IT WASN'T LIKE THAT.

YOU GUYS JUST STARTED GOING OUT A MONTH AGO, RIGHT? WHY DID SHE DUMP YOU, YAMATO-KUN?!

OH, SHUT UP...

.....

YOU ARE SUCH AN IDIOT.

WHO WOULD BREAK UP WITH SUCH A NICE GIRL?

. . . I KNOW, I KNOW . . .

YOU KNOW? REALLY?

AN ASSHOLE LIKE YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND ANOTHER GIRL LIKE HER.

CRUSH

. . . .

I WOULDN'T EVEN GIVE YOU THE TIME OF DAY.

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE GOOD LOOKING OR RICH OR ANY-THING...

COME ON, SAOTOME-SAN, QUIT TEASING HIM LIKE THAT.

OH, LOOK AT THAT FACE, WHAT'RE YOU GONNA CRY NOW?

STOP IT, SAOTOME-SAN!

OH MY GOD! JUST LOOK AT HIS FACE!

. . . . .

. . . YAMATO-KUN.

IT'S OVER, ALL RIGHT! SO JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!!

DID HE BREAK UP... WITH HONOKA-CHAN?

W-WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

PLUM WINE

PLUNK

12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

チッ
TICK
.
TOCK
チッ

TICK
チッ

SORRY . . .

. . . I KNOW

Follow Me

WHAT KIND OF AN ATTITUDE IS THAT!!

. . . HUH ?

ガ!! POUND ン ガ!! POUND~ ン

YOU MIGHT BE READY, BUT MAY-BE SHE WASN'T READY! EVER THINK OF THAT?

READY? READY FOR WHAT?

HUH?!

SAGIM ORIGINAL

Y-YEAH, I'M LISTENING!!

SMACK

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!

PLAIN

UM...

IF YOU DO THAT...

AND WHEN YOU SAY NO, THEY LOOK AT YOU LIKE "WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, BITCH"...

HMMPH, MEN...

ALL THEY THINK ABOUT IS GETTING LAID!!

POKE

POKE

PLAIN

SMACK

YOU'RE NEVER GONNA USE IT ANYWAY!!

ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH BOOZE FOR YOU...

PA-LUNK

オロ

LIKE THAT'S THE ONLY REASON I SAID NO!!

AND THEN THEY'RE LIKE "IT'S OKAY, BABY. I'LL WEAR A RUBBER."

...WELL, SOUNDS LIKE IT WAS ALL FOR THE BEST.

. . . WHAT ?

COME ON, MEGUMI-CHAN. LET'S GO HOME.

PLUM WINE

SNIFF SNIFF WAH-HHH!

WHY BOTHER KEEPING UP A HALF-ASSED RELATIONSHIP...

. . . BETTER TO JUST END IT...

...WELL, IT'S REALLY NONE OF MY BUSINESS. IT'S YOUR PROBLEM, NOT MINE.

CLICK ガチャ

GOOD NIGHT.

SLAM

KNOCK

KNOCK

KNOCK

...I GUESS SHE'S RIGHT.

MAYBE IT IS ALL FOR THE BEST.

CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE...?

HEY...

SO, I KIND OF OVERHEARD YOU GUYS.

DID YOU TWO REALLY BREAK UP?

GRAB

.....

Fallow Me

PLUM WINE

SHE WOULDN'T ACCEPT YOUR APOLOGY?!

WHY...?!

CREAK

.....

YEAH.

...IT WAS BE-CAUSE OF ME...

. . . WASN'T IT?

BUT YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE HAVING SO MUCH FUN SHOPPING FOR MY PRESENT WITH ASAHINA-SAN...

HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO BE HAPPY!

. . . WHAT ?

IT'S BECAUSE I WENT SHOP-PING WITH YOU, ISN'T IT?

I ENDED IT.

I BROKE UP WITH HER.

SHE WAS JUST SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS!

SO I HAD TO BREAK UP WITH HER!

IT ALWAYS ANNOYED ME THE WAY SHE SHOWED UP AT MY PLACE EVERY MORNING SO WE COULD WALK TO SCHOOL TOGETHER....

YOU KNOW, WE WERE NEVER REALLY A VERY GOOD MATCH.

WHAT.....?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

HUH? SURE I DO.

COME ON...

YOU DON'T REALLY MEAN THAT...

OF COURSE I DO. THAT'S WHAT WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME. ALL THAT PRESSURE...

DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW MUCH THIS RELA-TIONSHIP MEANT TO HONOKA-CHAN?!

YOU'RE NOT KID-DING.....?

I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW!!

THAT'S WHY IT'S GOOD THAT WE BROKE UP!

...YOU ARE SUCH AN ASSHOLE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU.

HUH?

SLAM

WHAT AN IDIOT I AM...

. . . . . .

WHY DID I WASTE MY TIME TRYING TO HELP THAT ASSHOLE...?

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID?

コツ
STEP
コツ
STEP

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE WALKED DOWN THIS ROAD ALL BY MYSELF.

AKITSUKI-KUN...

SUZUKA

SUZUKA

#54 DECISION

I WAS WALKING TOO SLOW. I'M GONNA BE LATE!!

FWOOSH

SHIT!!

DONG

DING

...HUH?

HEY...

HONOKA-CHAN...

G -GOOD M-MORN-ING!!

G-GOOD MORN-ING...

OH SHIT, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT TO SAY TO HER.

.....

UH...

...

CLASS... IS ABOUT TO START.

HEY...

WHERE'S THE MAN-AGER?

#11 7 CHATTER

#11 7 CHATTER

HEY, MAN-AGER?!

HUH...?

YO, AKITSUKI, HAVE YOU SEEN SAKURAI?

YOU MUST KNOW, YOU GUYS ARE GOING OUT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU "DON'T THINK SO"?...

.....

I-I DON'T THINK SO...

...NOT ANY-MORE...

...WHAT?

Y-
YEAH
...

YES-
TER-
DAY...

YOU
TWO
BROKE
UP?!

SHE'D
BE TOO
UNCOM-
FORTABLE
WITH YOU
HERE!!

WHAT
?!

FWAHHH

'Y-YEAH'?
IS THAT ALL
YOU CAN
SAY, MAN!!
NO WONDER
SAKURAI
DIDN'T SHOW
UP TODAY!!

WELL,
WHAT
AM I
SUP-
POSED
TO DO...

SHIT, THIS
IS BAD
TIMING.
WE'VE
GOT
THE FALL
FRESH-
MAN
COMPETI-
TION
COMING
UP.

STARTING
TOMORROW
YOU BETTER
DO ALL OUR
LAUNDRY
AND STUFF,
AKITSUKI.

CLOPPA

CLOPPA

SHIT,
NOW
SAKURAI
DEFINITELY
WON'T
SHOW UP.

WE'VE
REALLY
BEEN
RELYING
ON
SAKURAI
SINCE SHE
JOINED UP.

THIS
IS
THE
CHANCE
I'VE
BEEN
WAITING
FOR!!

SPARKLE

PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BLAME HIM LIKE THAT...

I KIND OF FEEL SORRY FOR HIM...

IT LOOKS THAT WAY.

AKITSUKI BROKE UP WITH SAKURAI-SAN, HUH?...

IT SERVES HIM RIGHT.

H-HEY, WAIT UP, SUZUKA.

COME ON, MIKI, YOU'D BETTER START WARMING UP.

OOPS, SORRY.

...BUT MY NAME IS KOBAYAKAWA.

YEAH, NO PROBLEM.

HA, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SAID THAT.

THANKS, KOBAYASHI.

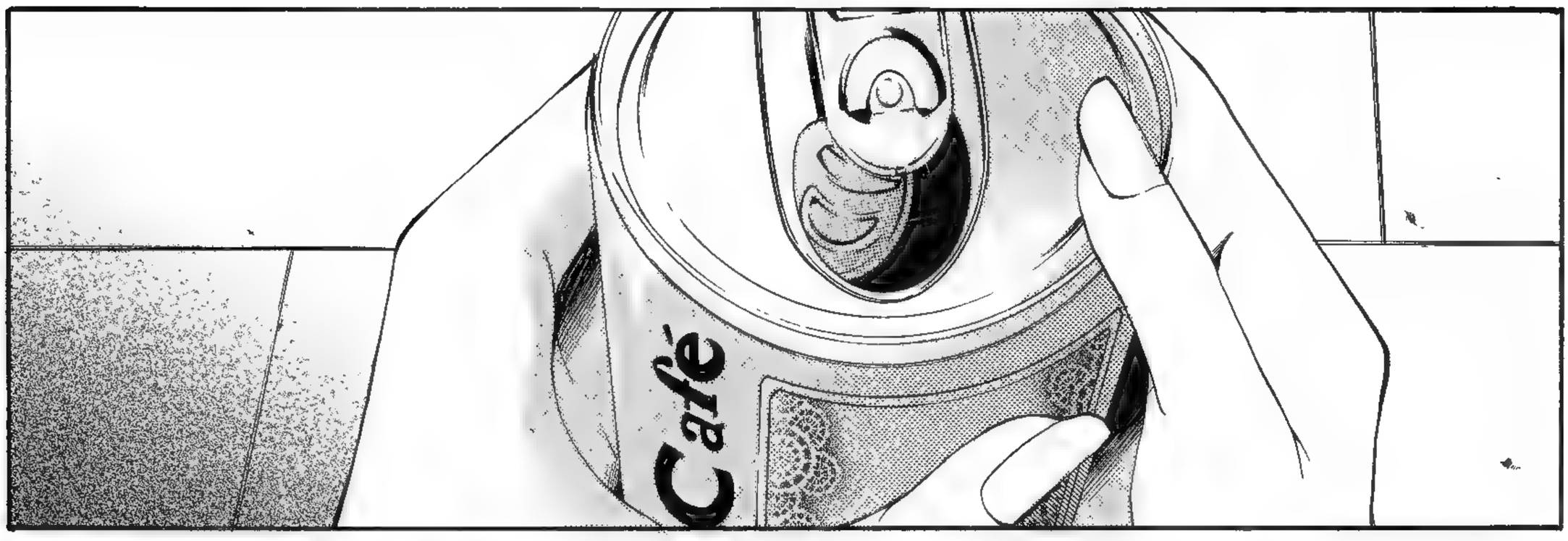
I'M ON YOUR SIDE, AKITSUKI!

EVERYBODY IS SO MEAN. I'M SURE YOU GUYS HAD YOUR OWN ISSUES TO DEAL WITH.

HUH...?

YOU ARE SO COOL...

NO PROBLEM.


Café

YOU SCARED THE HECK OUTTA ME WHEN YOU CALLED UP CRYING LIKE THAT.
OKAY, I GET WHY YOU'RE UPSET, BUT...

...SORRY.
BRINGING YOU OUT HERE LIKE THIS, AND THEN MAKING YOU LISTEN TO MY...
NO, IT'S OKAY. I'VE GOT TODAY OFF ANYWAY.

WHEN WE BROKE UP, I TRIED TO SMILE...
BUT WHEN I SAW AKITSUKI-KUN TODAY, I WAS SO SAD...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I LIKE HIM...

HIS HEART WILL ALWAYS BE TAKEN... BY ASAHINA-SAN...

BUT, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH JUST BREAKING UP WITH YAMATO-KUN LIKE THAT?

WHAT OTHER CHOICE DID I HAVE...

WHAT...?

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT.

.....

DID YAMATO-KUN EVER TELL YOU THAT...?

DID HE SAY THAT HE STILL LIKED SUZUKA-CHAN?

WELL... NO ...NOT EXACT-LY...

THRASHER

...MIGHT BE A BIT TOO INSECURE, HONOKA.

BUT YOU...

B-BUT!

I MEAN, SURE YAMATO-KUN HAS HIS BAD POINTS.

WHAT.....?

I...

AM I WRONG?

I DON'T WANNA HEAR ANOTHER WORD ABOUT ASAHINA!!

ALL RIGHT, ENOUGH ALREADY! JUST SHUT UP!

I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT ASAHINA ALL THAT TIME!

YOU KNOW, IT'S NOT LIKE...

AND WHEN YOU COOKED FOR ME...

WHEN WE WALKED TO SCHOOL TOGETHER...

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...

WHAT.....?

THE BREAK UP WAS PROBABLY.....

ALL MY FAULT.....

I FELT LIKE...

...I REALLY DID LOVE YOU.

THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS.

IF ONLY I HAD A BIT MORE SELF-CONFIDENCE...

HONOKA...

YOU NEVER KNOW, THERE COULD BE A GUY OUT THERE WHO'S GOT HIS EYE ON YOU...

HE COULD BE RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE.

DON'T WORRY! YOU'RE SUCH A CUTIE.

I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND A NEW BOYFRIEND SOON!

TWIRL

NANA-CHAN...

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.

OH, YEAH? HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?

GUESS YOU CAN'T BLAME HER...

LOOKS LIKE SAKURAI ISN'T HERE AGAIN TODAY.

THE FOL-LOWING DAY-

YEAH, ME EITHER.

.....

I JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE RUNNING TODAY... WONDER WHOSE FAULT THAT IS....

COME ON, QUIT SLACKING OFF, EVERY-BODY!!

TIME TO RUN SOME INTER-VALS!

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

ALL RIGHT...

I'M BEAT.

...HUH?

HAHH

HAHH

...ABOUT YESTERDAY.

S-SORRY...

OH...! SHE'S HERE!!

WOO HOO!

SAKURAI...

HONOKA-CHAN...

.....

IT'S ALL RIGHT!! HAVE A SEAT!!

WHAT?!

HUH?

UM... WOULD YOU LIKE SOME-THING TO DRINK??!

WOOO

ALL RIGHT THEN, LET'S GET STARTED!!

YEAH!!

WOOO

WOOO

.....

THERE YOU GO.

KOBAY-AKAWA-KUN.

CH-CHEER UP, SAKU-RAI...

N-NO, NO PROBLEM.

ANY TIME!

THANKS... THAT'S REALLY NICE OF YOU.

WELL...

YEAH.

I...

...HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS SINCE YESTER-DAY, BUT...

I KNOW YOU'VE GOT A LOT GO-ING ON, BUT, IF YOU EVER WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, I'M HERE FOR YOU, OKAY?

WHAT ?

. . . . . .

OF COURSE, WE MIGHT JUST REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKES AGAIN.

IF WE DON'T CHANGE...

BUT...

SOMEDAY, WHEN I'VE BECOME A MORE CONFIDENT PERSON...

DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH WANTING TO GET BACK TO-GETHER WITH...

...A GUY YOU JUST BROKE UP WITH?

SOMEDAY.

I'D LIKE TO TELL AKITSUKI-KUN HOW I FEEL ABOUT HIM AGAIN...

SHIVER

ヒュ～

SHE BROKE KENJI KOBAYAKAWA'S HEART TWICE, BUT NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW.

#55 ENCOURAGEMENT

163 CM !!

168 CM !!

NISHI

ALL RIGHT, NEXT !!

NISHI

YOU WANT US TO BE ON THE RELAY TEAM?

...BUT I JUST JOINED THE TEAM.

WHAT? SERIOUSLY ?!

YEAH, YOU GUYS WERE THE TWO FASTEST IN TODAY'S PRELIMI-NARY 100 METER RACE.

I REALLY WANT YOU TWO TO BE IN THE RACE.

WELL THAT DOESN'T MATTER, WE CHOOSE WHO-EVER'S THE MOST QUALIFIED.

ANYWAYS, THAT'S AN ORDER. YOU TWO ARE IN.

HUH……?

..!

THAT'S REALLY GREAT, AKITSUKI-KUN.

YES, SIR!!

I'LL DO MY BEST!!

……

GOOD LUCK!

Y-YEAH, GOOD LUCK TO YOU, TOO...

I-I'M GONNA HANG IN THERE, TOO, SAKURAI!!

TH-THANKS..

OKAY, YOU GUYS NEED TO STAY FOR ANOTHER TRAINING SESSION AFTER PRACTICE IS OVER.

ALL RIGHT.

HUH……

YEAH! AKITSUKI WAS SELECTED. ISN'T THAT AWESOME?

THE RELAY TEAM?

I WAS KINDA WORRIED, YOU KNOW.

HE'S BEEN SO DE-PRESSED SINCE HE BROKE UP WITH SAKURAI-SAN.

WHAT'S WRONG, SUZUKA? ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING AGAIN?

NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.

BUT...

I COULD CARE LESS ABOUT HIM.

FWICK

CLUELESS. WELL, I KNOW HE BROKE UP WITH SAKURAI-SAN.

YANK

BUT IT PROBABLY WASN'T ALL HIS FAULT...

I JUST CAN'T STAND CLUELESS GUYS LIKE HIM.

THAT'S ALL.

REALLY?

HE SAID HE DUMPED HER BECAUSE "SHE WAS A PAIN IN THE ASS"!

AKIT-SUKI SAID THAT...?

W-WHAT THE HELL....? DID HE REALLY SAY THAT?

REALLY? NO WAY...

WHY DON'T YOU GO ASK HIM YOUR-SELF?

LISTEN UP! I KNOW WE'RE ON THE RELAY TEAM TOGETHER. BUT WHEN WE'RE RUNNING THE 100 METER, THERE'S NO WAY I'M LOSING TO YOU.

AND...

AND...

AH, LATER, KOBAYA... KAWA.

SEE YA, AKIT-SUKI!!

H-HEY.

FWOOSH

FWOOSH

SHIT, NEVER MIND!!

AH

CLANK

CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A SEC?!

...?

JESUS!! YOU SCARED THE SHIT OUTTA ME!!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HIM?

IS IT TRUE?

YOU BROKE UP WITH SAKURAI-SAN, BECAUSE SHE WAS 'A PAIN IN THE ASS'?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE SO LATE, HASHI-BA?

I WAS WAITING FOR YOU, AKIT-SUKI!!

. . . WHAT ?

YEAH, IT'S TRUE... YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

. . . . . .

OH, NOT THIS AGAIN...

ASAHINA TOLD YOU THAT, HUH?

じ GLARE

. . . . . .

JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION !!

. . . WHAT ?

YOU'RE FULL OF IT!

YOU THINK YOU CAN FOOL ME THAT EASILY?

YEAH... WELL...

BESIDES, IF YOU ACTUALLY SAID THAT WHEN YOU BROKE UP, THERE'S NO WAY SAKURAI-SAN WOULD BE COMING TO OUR PRACTICE!!

WHAT ?!

THEN HOW COME YOU LOOK SO DEPRESSED ?!

...YOU TELL ME THE REAL REASON.

I'M NOT GOING HOME UNTIL...

THEN WE STARTED FIGHTING.

SAKURAI SAID SHE THOUGHT

...THAT I STILL LIKED ASAHINA.

YOU MEAN, YOU STILL LIKE SUZUKA ?!

WHAT?

I GUESS...

...TO HER, THAT MADE IT SEEM LIKE I STILL LIKED ASAHINA.

...NO... I DON'T THINK I DO.

BUT, I WAS SO BUSY TRYING TO ACT LIKE A GOOD BOYFRIEND THAT I DIDN'T EVEN STOP TO THINK ABOUT HOW HONOKA-CHAN FELT. I WAS REALLY SELFISH.

OH...

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL... ... SUZUKA THAT?

ANYWAYS, DON'T MENTION ANY OF THIS TO ASAHINA.

SHE ALREADY FEELS BAD ENOUGH AS IT IS...

WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO SAY TO HER? "YOU'RE THE REASON I BROKE UP WITH MY GIRL-FRIEND"?

... AKITSUKI.

I WON'T TELL HER.

ALL RIGHT..

UM...

WELL, I'M GONNA HEAD HOME.

LET'S GET SOMETHING TO EAT ON THE WAY HOME!!

YOU MUST BE PRETTY HUNGRY AFTER ALL THAT PRACTICE, RIGHT?!

HEY, WAIT!

W-WHAT?

YANAZE-TEI OKONOMIYAKI, MONJA

HUH...?

YANAZE

TEPPANYAKI, OKONOMIYAKI

SO, THAT'S WHY YOU DRAGGED ME IN HERE.

YOU COULD HAVE JUST COME WITH ASAHINA.

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY THIS PLACE!!

BUT, I DON'T KNOW, IT JUST DIDN'T SEEM LIKE THE KIND OF PLACE A GIRL COULD GO BY HERSELF.

.....

WATCH IT! YOU IDIOT!

FLIP

HEY, LOOK, I THINK IT'S READY.

CAN I TURN IT OVER?!

IF YOU KEEP FLIPPING IT OVER AND OVER LIKE THAT, ALL THE AIR'LL SEEP OUT AND IT WON'T BE FLUFFY!!

SO DON'T TOUCH IT ANYMORE !!

LOOK! IT'S NOT EVEN COOKED YET!!

NO... YOU'RE GONNA BURN IT.

YOU'RE SO MEAN.

FLIP

OH, COME ON, LET ME FLIP IT.

QUIT IT, STUPID !!

OKONOMIYAKI/MONJA

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M A PRO!!

YOU'RE FROM HIRO-SHIMA, SO WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?!

THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE KANSAI-STYLE, YOU KNOW?!

SHUT UP. DON'T BE SUCH AN OKO-NOMIYAKI SNOB!!

GRAB

YOU'RE GONNA RUIN IT!!

YOU'VE GOT TO PUT SOME SAUCE ON IT FIRST!!

LOOK, IT'S PERFECT!

FWICK

PLUP

AH...

PLOOSH

I WANT SOME AONORI ON MINE!!

WHO CARES IF YOU DO!

HEY!!

I SAID "HEY!" TURN AROUND, AKITSUKI. DO I STILL HAVE AONORI STUCK IN MY TEETH?

ALL THE WAITERS WERE TOTALLY GLARING AT US!!

I HAVE NEVER HAD SUCH GROSS OKONOMI-YAKI!

IT'S NO USE DWELLING ON THE PAST, AKITSUKI!

HEY...

...WHAT?

WHAT?

HASHI-BA.

HAS SHE JUST BEEN TRYING TO CHEER ME UP THIS WHOLE TIME? IS THAT WHY SHE ASKED ME TO...

WHEN-EVER I'M WORRIED ABOUT SOME-THING, I JUST EAT TO MY HEART'S CONTENT!

YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MUCH THAT CAN CHEER YOU UP.

I-I WASN'T WORRIED

I KNOW HONOKA-CHAN'S ALREADY MOVED ON, AND HERE I AM...

SORRY...IF I MADE YOU ALL WORRIED...

FWUP

BUT IT'S SO WEIRD

I MEAN, THE WHOLE REASON I JOINED THE TRACK TEAM IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS SO I COULD BE NEAR ASAHINA.

I MEAN, YOU MADE IT ON TO THE RELAY TEAM, RIGHT?

YOU JUST NEED TO LIGHTEN UP, AKITSUKI!

Y-YEAH

NOW THAT ASAHINA HATES MY GUTS...

WHAT'S THE POINT OF ME STAYING ON THE TEAM?

I MEAN, I FEEL BAD FOR ALL THE PEOPLE ON THE TEAM WHO ARE TRYING SO HARD, SO...

I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE...

WELL.....

WELL, I THINK EVERYONE WAS KIND OF PISSED AT YOU AT FIRST.

WHAT...

.....

YOU JOINED THE TEAM RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEASON, AND AT FIRST YOU COULD HARDLY EVEN KEEP UP WITH PRACTICE.

STAB

STAB

AND NOW SUDDENLY YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE BIG COMPETI-TION.

BUT... YOU KNOW WHAT'S WEIRD, AKIT-SUKI...?

WHAT...?

WHENEVER I WATCH YOU, I JUST GET THE FEELING, THAT YOU'RE GONNA DO SOMETHING... SOMETHING BIG.

AND I GET THE FEELING THAT EVERYONE ELSE ON THE TEAM FEELS THE SAME WAY.

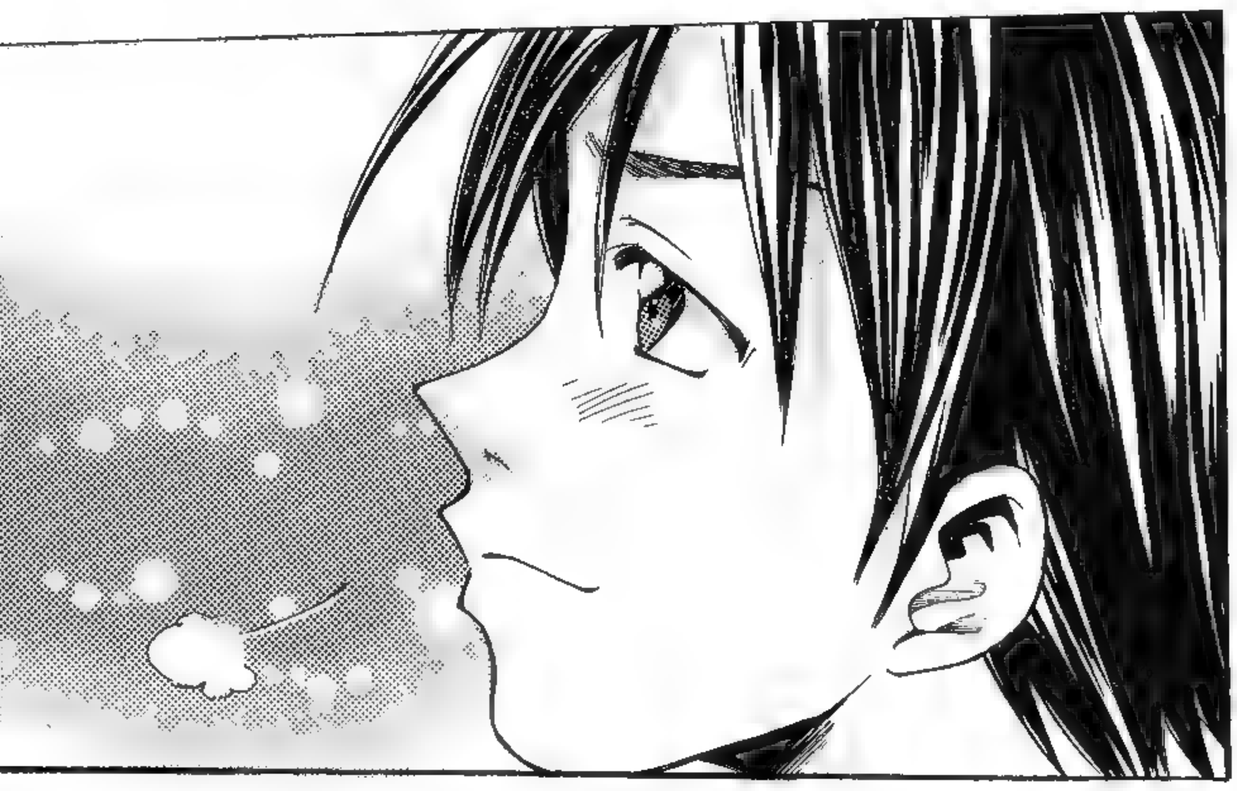
YOU...

...THINK SO?

Y-
YEAH
...

THAT'S THE REASON YOU'RE STAYING ON THE TEAM.

DAMN RIGHT I DO! AND YOU'D BETTER PROVE US RIGHT!



GOT IT? NOW GET UP!

YOU CAN'T SIT AROUND ON YOUR ASS FOREVER !!

YANK

YOU REALLY LIKE TO STICK YOUR NOSE INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS DON'T YOU, HASHIBA?

SH-
SHUT
UP
...

I'LL STICK IT OUT AND KEEP DOING MY BEST...

...ALL RIGHT.

GOOD !!

.....

WELL, COME ON, LET'S GO GET SOME DESSERT!

YOUR TREAT, AKITSUKI !!

WHAT? I JUST BOUGHT YOU OKONOMI-YAKI!!

STOMP

STEP

STEP

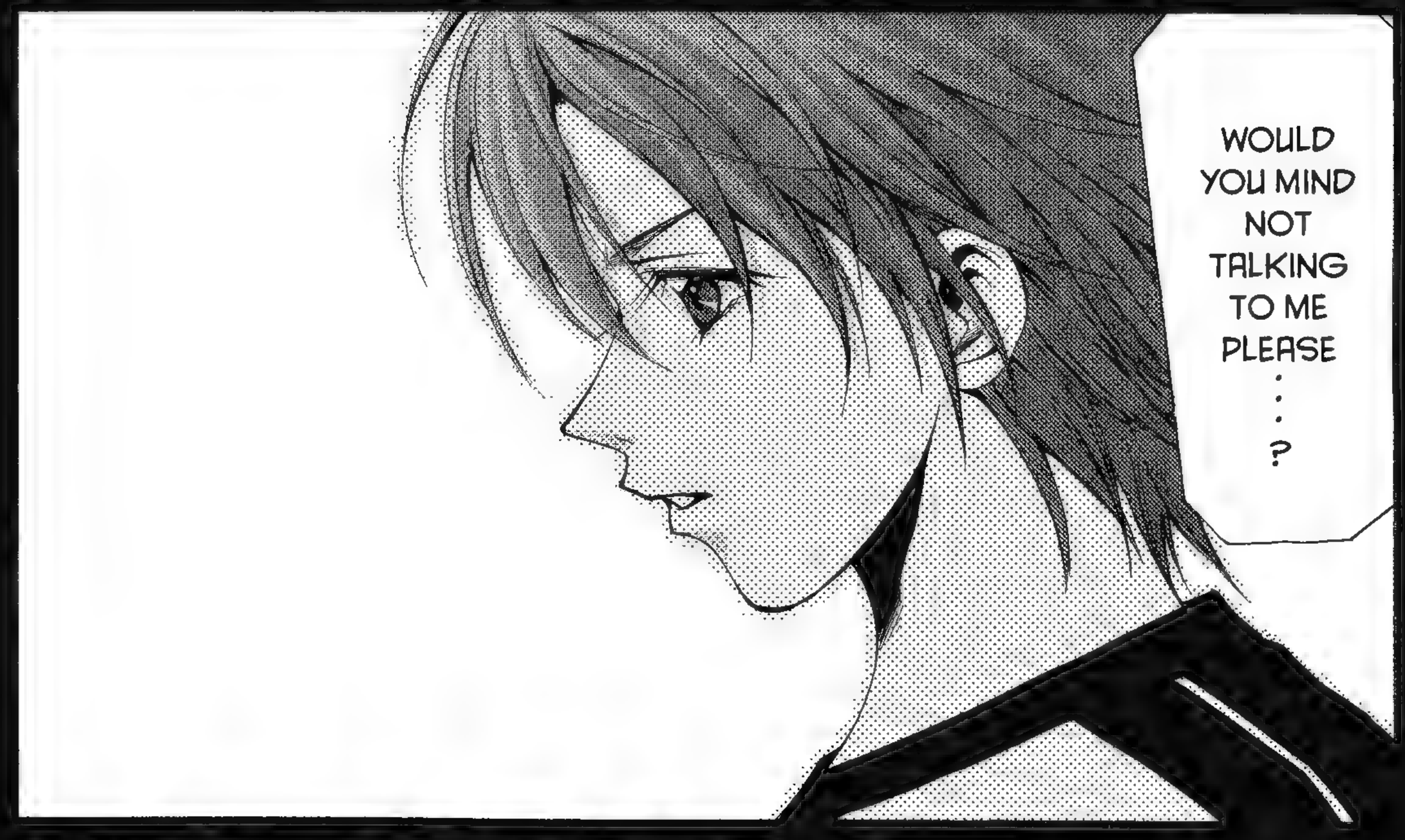
ALL RIGHT . . .

I'M JUST GONNA FOCUS ON WINNING THIS RACE.

UM...

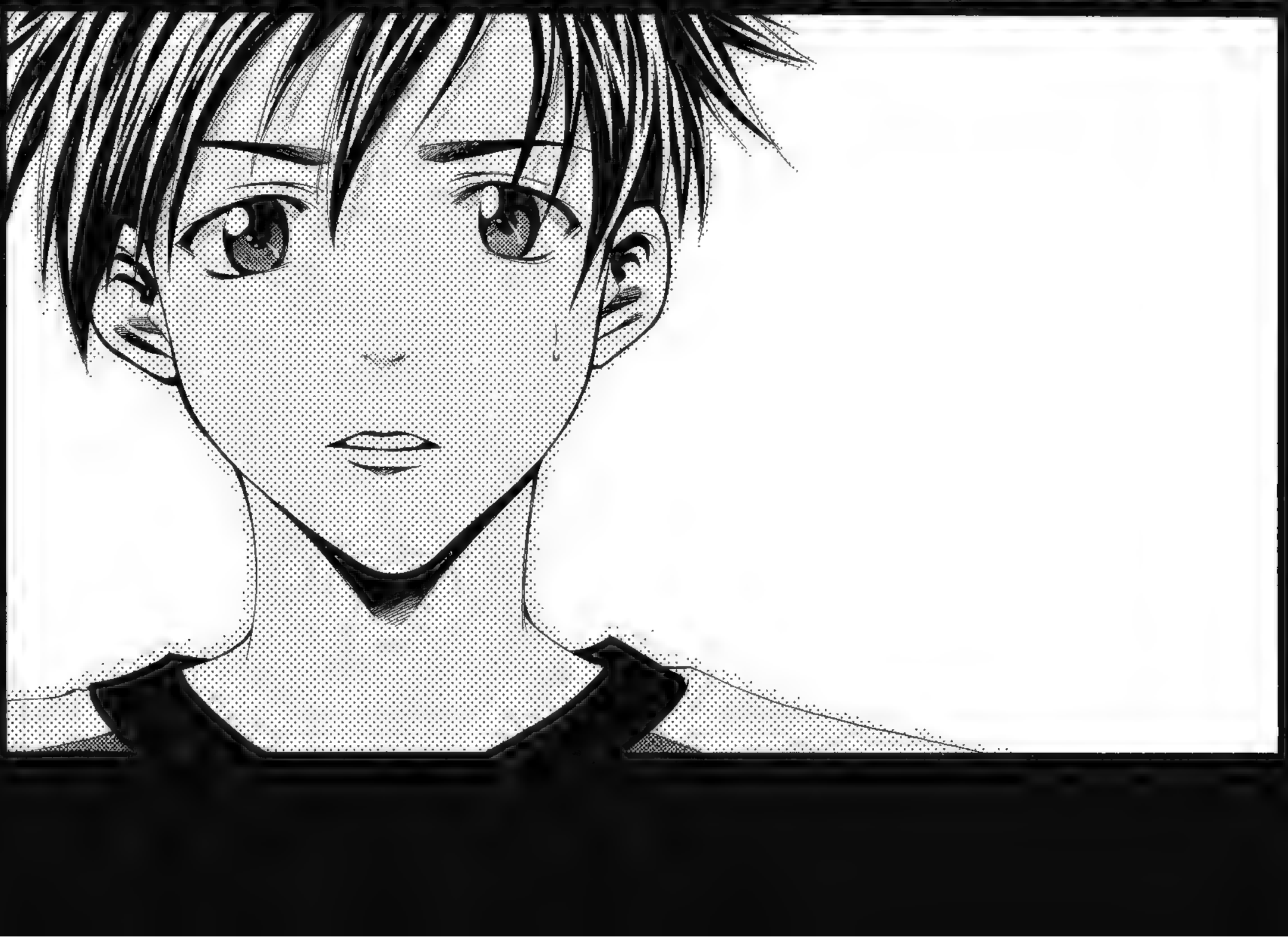
UHHH...

SUZUKA



SUZUKA

#56 TRUE INTENTION



OKAY, I KNEW SHE HATED ME...

...BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT HAD GOTTEN THIS BAD.

STEP

STEP

KALANK

KALANK

SORRY

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, AKITSUKI? YOU KEEP DROPPING THE BATON.

OOPS . . .

SHIT . . .

HEY, MIYA-MOTO, I KNOW HE'S FAST... BUT HE CAN'T HANDLE A BATON FOR SHIT.

GIVE HIM A BREAK, SASAKI, AKITSUKI HARDLY HAS ANY EXPERIENCE WITH THIS STUFF.

BUT IF YOU ASK ME, HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S NOT EVEN TRYING.

TSSS

YEAH, WELL EVERY-BODY STARTS OUT THAT WAY...

ALL RIGHT!

.....

CHILL OUT, HE'S DOING THE BEST HE CAN.

THIS ISN'T JUST SOME PRACTICE RELAY, YOU KNOW? YOU'D BETTER START TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY..

SHUT UP.

SASAKI-SENPAI REALLY HATES YOU.

.....

AKIT-SUKI.

I TOLD MYSELF I WAS REALLY GONNA STICK IT OUT AND DO MY BEST, AND NOW...

I SUCK.

DID YOU JUST FINISH RELAY PRACTICE ?

AKIT-SUKI!

HASHIBA... YOU'RE STILL HERE?

UH, YEAH . . .

SO, HOW DID PRACTICE GO?

NOW THEY'RE ALL PISSED AT ME.

I KEPT DROPPING THE BATON AND SLOWING EVERYONE DOWN.

YOU KNOW...

.....

AND I CAN'T PRACTICE FOR THE RELAY ON MY OWN YOU KNOW...

I FEEL LIKE SUCH AN ASS-HOLE

O-OH...

WHAT?

I MEAN, I WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD YOU TO STICK WITH IT!!

IF YOU WANT, I CAN HELP YOU PRACTICE RIGHT NOW.

DON'T WORRY!

BUT I THINK THE FIELD IS CLOSED SO...

WELL... THAT'S REALLY NICE OF YOU.

I KNOW THE PERFECT PLACE.

GET YOUR STUFF TOGETHER AND FOLLOW ME.

IS THIS A . . .

. . . PARK ?

HIKARINO-OKA PARK NORTH.

FLUP

YEP. IT'S HUGE, ISN'T IT?

W-WHY THE HELL ARE YOU TAKING YOUR CLOTHES OFF?!!

THERE ARE TONS OF STRAIGHT-AWAYS THAT'LL BE PERFECT FOR PRACTICE.

I'VE GOT MY TRACK UNIFORM ON UNDER-NEATH!!

IF WE'RE GONNA PRACTICE, WE MIGHT AS WELL DO IT RIGHT AND WEAR OUR UNIFORMS.

YEAH, BUT WHAT IF SOME-BODY SEES US...

DON'T WORRY, AKITSUKI, JUST TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES!

COME ON, LETS GET STARTED.

YOU SOUND LIKE SUCH A PERVERT!

YOU'RE THE PERVERT, AKITUSKI

OKAY!

LET'S TRY IT ONE MORE TIME SO YOU DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU LEARNED!

ALL RIGHT, YOU'RE GETTING THERE!

SEIKO

ALL RIGHT! THIS TIME I'M GONNA DO IT RIGHT.

FWOOSH

ピク
SHOCK

YOU SUCK...

SHIT...

KALANK

KALANK

KALANK

S-SOR-RY...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, AKITSUKI? YOU GOTTA GET THE TIMING RIGHT!

I THOUGHT YOU FINALLY HAD IT!

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY...

OKAY...

.....

WAIT HERE.

I'M GONNA GO GET SOME DRINKS.

WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING...

.....

I TRIED TO ACT LIKE THE PERFECT BOYFRIEND WHEN I WAS WITH HONOKA-CHAN...

I ACTED LIKE A JERK SO ASAHINA WOULD HATE ME.

AND I STAYED ON THE TRACK TEAM JUST CAUSE HASHIBA TOLD ME TO.

I ALWAYS JUST GO WITH THE FLOW AND DO WHATEVER PEOPLE TELL ME TO.

I TELL THEM WHAT THEY WANNA HEAR...

AND ALL I EVER END UP DOING IS PISSING EVERYONE OFF OR GETTING THEM ALL WORRIED, OR MAKING THEM CRY.

BUT I DO EVERY-THING IN A TOTALLY HALF-ASSED WAY.

WHAT I ACTUALLY WANT TO DO...

I GOTTA FIGURE OUT...

YOU'RE DEEP IN THOUGHT AGAIN, EH...

WHOA, THAT'S COLD!!

AQUARIUS

PLUP

I-IT'S NOT THAT!

WHAT NOW?

ARE YOU DEPRESSED CAUSE THE SENPAI GUYS ARE SO HARD ON YOU?

.....

PSHEW

HUH?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS.

I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S BUGGING ME.

THEN WHAT IS IT?

SORRY, THAT DOESN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE.

WHAT THE HELL AM I TALKING ABOUT...

YOU'RE THINKING "GOD, I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT," RIGHT?

I KNOW WHAT IT IS....

YOU REGRET WHAT YOU SAID TO SUZUKA, RIGHT...?

WHAT.....?

NO, THAT'S NOT...

.....

DID YOU TWO REALLY BREAK UP BECAUSE OF SUZUKA?

UMM...

SO...

THEN WHY DID YOU LIE TO SUZUKA LIKE THAT.

I THINK I JUST WASN'T TAKING THE RELATIONSHIP SERIOUSLY ENOUGH.

...NO.

BUT I CAN'T TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID, CAN I?

OKAY! I KNOW!

SO I WAS RIGHT. YOU DO REGRET IT.

...YOU SAID YOU BROKE UP WITH HER BECAUSE "SHE WAS A PAIN IN THE ASS"... DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S A MEAN THING TO SAY ABOUT SAKURAI?

AND WHY THE HELL WOULD YOU MAKE UP SOMETHING LIKE THAT JUST TO PISS OFF SUZUKA? I CAN'T BELIEVE...

WHAT.....?

I'LL TELL HER YOU TOLD ME NOT TO TELL HER.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU LET ME TALK TO SUZUKA FOR YOU?

WELL... I GUESS IF YOU DID THAT...

.....

I'M SURE SHE'LL UNDER-STAND IF YOU JUST LET ME EXPLAIN.

AND THIS CONVER-SATION CAN BE OUR LITTLE SECRET. I WON'T TELL HER ABOUT IT.

.....

OKAY THEN I'LL TALK TO HER TOMOR-ROW.

W-WHAT IS IT NOW?

NO! WAIT A SEC!!

I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT... I'LL TELL HER MYSELF.

IT'LL PROBABLY JUST SEEM LIKE ANOTHER EXCUSE TO HER. I'LL END UP LOOKING LIKE EVEN MORE OF AN IDIOT.

IT'LL SOUND LIKE A TOTAL LIE, AND...

コンッ

PLUNK

HUH? BUT THEN...

THIS TOTALLY SUCKS.

I LIED TO ASAHINA AND NOW I'M GONNA FEEL GUILTY ABOUT IT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!!

A-AKITSUKI...

...WHAT?

OKAY, FINE. DO WHATEVER YOU WANT. THIS IS GETTING RIDICU-LOUS.

.....

...WELL.

I'LL PROBABLY END UP REGRET-TING THIS, BUT...

YOU'RE ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT THIS OR THAT, AND HALF THE TIME I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALK-ING ABOUT...

ISN'T THAT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?

BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, YOU JUST WANT TO MAKE UP WITH SUZUKA.

AH, SHE'S RIGHT...

THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL...

IT'S JUST THAT, WE'RE NEIGHBORS SO I DON'T WANT THINGS TO BE WEIRD AND...

BUT ONE THING'S FOR SURE. I CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF HER HATING ME.

WELL, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT..

YEAH, YEAH.

#57 RECONCILIATION

SUZUKA

WELL...

IF I SAY THIS...

SHE'LL PROBABLY SAY THAT AND THEN I'LL BE...

...

MUMBLE

MUMBLE

NO... THAT'S NO GOOD AT ALL...

FWUP

DAMN IT!! NO MATTER WHAT I SAY IT'S GONNA END UP A DISASTER!!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU MUMBLING ABOUT? YOUR UDON'S GETTING COLD, MAN.

OH... MAYBE I SHOULD JUST HAVE HASHIBA TELL HER, BUT THEN...

WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? GOD, HOW CAN YOU BE SO WORRIED ABOUT EVERYTHING ALL THE TIME?

SLURP

HASHI-BA...

I TOLD YOU I'D DO IT FOR YOU, IF YOU—

WHAT? YOU STILL HAVEN'T TALKED TO HER YET?

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSI-NESS! JUST EAT YOUR FREAKIN' NOODLES.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?

HUH...?

GEEZ, YAMATO. EVER HEARD OF MORALS? TRYING TO GET WITH YOUR FRIENDS...

OH, I GET IT, YOU ACT LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO COMFORT POOR, BROKENHEARTED YAMATO, BUT REALLY YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO GET HIS ATTENTION, RIGHT?

WHAT?! I NEVER TRY TO HOOK UP WITH MY FRIENDS.

YANK

YANK

SHUT UP, PERVERT. YAMATO'S NOT LIKE THAT. SOUNDS MORE LIKE SOMETHING YOU WOULD DO!

WHAT?!

DON'T BE AN IDIOT!!

KOUGEN BUTTER

WORRYING ABOUT IT ISN'T GONNA DO ME ANY GOOD...

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME!!

EXCUSE ME?! OH, YOU ARE SO FULL OF SHIT!!

STEP

STEP

I'VE JUST GOTTA TELL HER...

FWEESH

ASAHIYU BATH

I'M SURE SHE'LL UNDERSTAND IF I JUST EXPLAIN THINGS TO HER...

DID YOU JUST GET HOME?

GORO CHAN . . .

PL-OINK

AH . . .

FWESH

. . . . . .

CLOP
CLOP
STEP
STEP
I-
I
WANNA
APLOGIZE
...
I
DON'T
...
...REMEMBER
YOU
DOING
ANYTHING
THAT
REQUIRES
AN
APOLOGY...

.....

WAIT, HOLD ON!

Y-YOU KNOW THE REASON I GAVE YOU FOR BREAKING UP WITH HONOKA-CHAN...

WELL... THAT WAS... A LIE.

...WHAT?

JUST LISTEN, OKAY.

WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS NOW?

THE TRUTH IS WE WERE HAVING A LOT OF PROBLEMS AND WE GOT IN A BIG FIGHT...

WE JUST REALIZED THAT WE DIDN'T REALLY GET ALONG... SO THAT'S WHY WE...

I...

I MEAN, IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE SOME-THING YOU'D NEED TO HIDE FROM ME.

EVEN IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE...

WELL...

THEN WHY DID YOU HAVE TO LIE TO ME LIKE THAT?

WHAT
.
.
.
?

HONOKA SAID SHE THOUGHT I STILL LIKED YOU...

B-BUT THAT WASN'T THE REAL PROBLEM...

THAT WAS JUST WHAT TRIGGERED THE FIGHT...

THE REAL REASON WE BROKE UP WAS THAT I WASN'T TAKING THE RELATIONSHIP SERIOUSLY ENOUGH.

AND THAT'S HOW THE FIGHT STARTED.

BECAUSE IF I SAID THAT, I KNEW YOU'D TAKE IT PERSONALLY!!

THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

YOU TELL ME THAT I'M THE ONE WHO CAUSED YOUR BREAKUP... HOW THE HELL DO YOU EXPECT ME TO FEEL?

OF COURSE I WOULD.

THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T TELL YOU THE TRUTH!!

THERE YOU GO!! SEE!

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT?

TH-THEN WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS NOW!?

BECAUSE……

BLUSH

B-...

I HATE FIGHTING WITH YOU!!

I HATE THIS!!

...HUH?……

THAT'S ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT! I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON ANYTHING.

NO MATTER WHAT I'M DOING, EVEN WHEN I'M AT PRACTICE . . .

I KNOW.

BUT I JUST CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF YOU HATING ME ANYMORE...

TH-THAT'S YOUR OWN PROBLEM . . .

. . . . . .

I MEAN, YOU STARTED THE WHOLE THING.

H-
HEY.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...

WHAT ・・・

FWISH

WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?

ASAHINA !!

カ!! CLOP

カ!! CLOP

ASAHINA !!

ASAHINA !!

コ!! STEP

コ!! STEP

コ!! STEP

301

YAMATO AKITSUKI

CREAK

イ"...

ガ"

PLUNK

ガ"

ガ"

SLUMP

THAT DIDN'T GO OVER WELL...

OF COURSE IT DIDN'T...

WHO AM I TRYING TO KID...ALL I DID WAS GIVE HER A BUNCH OF LAME EXCUSES TO COVER MY OWN ASS.

AHHH... I SHOULD'VE JUST ASKED HASHIBA TO DO IT.

WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO LET MY PRIDE GET IN THE WAY?

RANID

I DON'T EVEN GIVE A SHIT ANY-MORE.

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST QUIT THE TRACK TEAM...

FLUMP

AHHH...

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

FWUP

OH GREAT...

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

HELLO ?!

BEEP

GRR

SILENCE

TRY ANSWER-ING THE PHONE A LITTLE SOONER NEXT TIME! GEEZ!

:
:
:
!?

STUMBLE

ガ!!

ガ-!

ガ-

CRASH

OUCH...!!

A-ASAHI...

OH SHIT!!

NOTH-ING REALLY...

.....

S-SORRY. I DROPPED MY PHONE.

W-WHAT IS IT?

HUH...?

I DON'T HATE YOU, OKAY !!

SO JUST KEEP WORKING ON TRAINING FOR THE RELAY !!

I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO BLAME EVERYTHING ON ME AND OUR FIGHT IF YOU END UP LOSING, THAT'S ALL.

GOOD-BYE!!

CLICK

WHAT ...

GRIP!

Y...

YOU'LL SEE!

I'M GONNA WIN THAT RACE!

THUMPA

YEAH! I'M GONNA DO IT!

I'M GONNA TAKE FIRST PLACE!

THUMPA

KEEP IT DOWN IN THERE, YAMATO-KUN!!

ASAHIYU BATHS

AHHH, I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER.

I CAN'T BELIEVE ASAHINA CALLED ME RIGHT AFTER WE TALKED. SHE MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY EMBAR-RASSED.

I WAS GOING CRAZY THINKING ABOUT IT. I SHOULD HAVE JUST TOLD HER RIGHT FROM THE START.

...I JUST WONDER IF WE'LL BE ABLE TO GO BACK TO THE WAY THINGS WERE...

カチッ

CLICK

トン トン

PLUP

PLUP

SUZUKA

#58 LAUNDRY

ASAHINA
!!

WAHHH
!

GOOD
...

MORN-
ING
!

HEY
...
!

GOOD
MORN-
ING.

O-
OKAY.

HURRY
UP,
EVERY-
ONE'S
WAITING
FOR
US.

カ
ン
CLOPPA

カ
ン
CLOPPA

WHAT
WAS
THAT
WEIRD
SOUND
?

OH,
SHIT
!!
MY
VOICE
CRACKED.

.....

I DON'T KNOW.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE FIGHTING ANYMORE BUT...

WHEN I'M ACTUALLY STANDING IN FRONT OF ASAHINA, LOOKING UP AT HER, I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

BUT, WE'VE BEEN THROUGH PLENTY OF FIGHTS BEFORE, SO...

WHY DO I FEEL THIS WAY NOW...?

AKIT-SUKI!

YOU DID? THAT'S GREAT !!

PWUNK

YEAH... I GUESS.

SO?

DID YOU MAKE PEACE WITH SUZUKA?

WELL, ACTUALLY IT'S KIND OF...

HUH? DID SOMETHING ELSE HAPPEN?

NO, I'VE GOT SOMETHING ELSE TO DO TODAY.

OH, HEY, ARE YOU GONNA PRACTICE TODAY?

WHAT . . . ?

UHH, NEVER MIND. IT'S NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE.

. . . OKAY

IS HE REALLY OKAY . . . ?

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? PILING UP ALL YOUR DIRTY LAUNDRY LIKE THIS.

IT'S GONNA GET ALL MOLDY!

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? I'M TOO BUSY WITH PRACTICE TO DO LAUNDRY.

ASAHIYU BATHS

NO, IT IS NOT OKAY!

OKAY, I'M OFF TO THE LAUNDRO-MAT.

GATTA

YEAH, BUT PRETTY SOON YOU'RE NOT GONNA HAVE ANYTHING LEFT TO WEAR.

CLOP

洗剤

CLOP

SUNTORY COFFEE

MIHO-CHAN'S STARTING TO SOUND JUST LIKE AYANO-SAN...

. . .

LECTURING ME ALL THE TIME!

. . .

HMMPH!

MEOWW

カラン
CLOPPA
カラン
CLOPPA
GEEZ, IF OUR STUPID APARTMENT COMPLEX HAD A WASHER AND DRYER, I WOULDN'T HAVE TO LET IT PILE UP LIKE THAT!
カリ
SLIDE
PURITY
DRYER
2
PURITY
DRYER
PURITY
DETERG

YEAH.

A-
ASAHINA

YOU'RE DOING LAUNDRY, TOO?

PLUP
PLUP
PLUP

WITH ALL THAT TRACK PRACTICE THERE'S JUST NO TIME FOR LAUNDRY, HUH?

HUH?

SLAM
バタン

OH YEAH

I WOULD NEVER LET MY DIRTY CLOTHES PILE UP LIKE THAT.

FWISHA

FWISHA

FWISHA

FWISHA

SANYO
COIN WASHER 45
¥200

SHONEN MAGAZINE
WEEKLY

UMM
...

NO THANKS.

AH...YOU KNOW WHAT?! I HAVE TWO MEAT AND POTATO CRO-QUETTES. YOU WANT ONE?!

OKAY THEN...

OH...

HEY, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN IN THE BIG FIGHT BETWEEN MASHIBA AND SAWAMURA IN THE "HAJIME NO IPPO" MANGA?

I'M BETTING ON...

SHONEN MAGAZINE

...

ゴゥン PAWOOSH

ゴゥン PAWOOSH

パンタ PLAP

ゴゥン PAWOOSH

ゴゥン PAWOOSH

I'VE GOT MAGA-ZINES AND STUFF...

I- I'M NOT THAT BORED...

IF YOU'RE BORED WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO TO THE CONVE-NIENCE STORE OR SOME-THING?

WHAT...

...

...UH-HUH.

IT'S LIKE HER MOOD GETS WORSE EVERY TIME I SEE HER...

W- WHAT IS HER PROBLEM ?

ISN'T YOUR LAUNDRY DONE YET?

. . . HUH ?

DOES SHE JUST HATE BEING AROUND ME?

DON'T LEAVE IT IN THE MACHINE TOO LONG, IT'LL GET ALL WRINKLED . . .

H-HEY.

. . . . . .

SHUT UP !!

SHOCK

BUT... SHE JUST SAID SHE DOESN'T HATE ME ANYMORE...

WHAT ?

YOU KNOW DAMN WELL I CAN'T TAKE IT OUT.

UH.... UM....

オロ WOBBLE

オロ WOBBLE

...WITH YOU STANDING THERE!! IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING !

HOW THE HELL DO YOU EXPECT ME TO TAKE IT OUT...

.....

DON'T YOU GET IT?! I'VE GOT UNDERWEAR AND STUFF IN THERE! OKAY!?

WHAT....?

WHY?

1

2

SO SHE WAS JUST ANNOYED BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T TAKE OUT HER UNDERWEAR!!

OH, OKAY... I GET IT!

UM... WAIT A SECOND!

CLANK

洗たく機の使い

S- SORRY. I GUESS I WASN'T THINKING!

I'M GONNA GO TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE.

W- WHAT?

MAYBE I WILL HAVE ONE...

SO YOU DO WANT ONE?

IS THAT A PROB-LEM?

ONE OF YOUR CROQUETTES. I'M KINDA HUNGRY SO, I'LL HAVE ONE.

HUH? ONE WHAT?

I SAID WAIT!

PURITY

洗剤

NO. IT'S NOT A PROBLEM... WELL, ENJOY YOUR CROQUETTE.

I CAN'T EAT A CROQUETTE IN HERE ALL BY MYSELF. IT'S TOO EMBAR-RASSING.

DO YOU WANT TO EAT WITH ME?!

CO/N WASHER 4

WHAT?

NOW WHAT?

GOD!

I'M SAYING EAT WITH ME, AND THEN GET THE HELL OUT!!

FIRST YOU TELL ME TO LEAVE, AND NOW YOU WANT ME TO EAT WITH YOU...

I DON'T GET YOU AT ALL.

PURITY

洗剤

ソフター

YOU ALWAYS DO THIS!!

HMMPH。

イイ〃

FORGET IT. JUST KEEP IT!

洗濯機の使い方

GEEZ, THAT'S HOW YOU ACT WHEN SOMEONE OFFERS TO SHARE SOMETHING WITH YOU?

CAN YOU AT LEAST PRETEND TO BE GRATEFUL ・・・

PURITY

乾燥機

GEEZ, SHE'S A REAL PIECE OF WORK...

I MEAN, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO ・・・

YOU GOT A PROB-LEM ?!

AT FIRST, I THOUGHT SHE WAS MS. PERFECT, BUT SHE'S REALLY JUST A SPOILED LITTLE BRAT.

SHE'S TOTALLY INDECISIVE AND SHE'S SO FREAKING MOODY. I TRY TO DO SOMETHING NICE AND SHE GETS ALL PISSED...

ORDINARY 07

...A PAIN IN THE ASS, AND YET I'M STILL . . .

SHE IS SUCH . . .

HUH...?

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!

GEEZ!

WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?!

I'M DONE WITH MY CROQUETTE, SO I GUESS I'M OUTTA HERE!

UM... DON'T COME BACK TOO SOON, OKAY.

YEAH, YEAH.

N-NOTHING...

SHOCK

WELL...

I GUESS I CAN BITCH ALL I WANT, BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT...

I STILL LOVE ASAHINA ...

THANKS.

コト

PLUNK

HERE'S YOUR TEA, MIHO.

I DON'T KNOW. I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T MAKE AN ASS OUT OF HIMSELF LIKE HE USUALLY DOES.

RIGHT, GORO-CHAN?

MEOW

I WONDER HOW YAMATO-KUN IS DOING.

HE SAID THIS WAS GONNA BE THE SECOND COMPETI-TION HE'S BEEN IN.

SUZUKA

THAT'S TRUE.

I BET SHE'LL SET A NEW RECORD AGAIN THIS TIME.

I'M SURE SUZUKA-CHAN WILL DO GREAT THOUGH.

I MEAN, AFTER ALL, SHE DID TAKE THRID PLACE IN THE INTER-HIGH COMPETI-TION!!

#59 RESOLUTION

SUZUKA

ROUND THREE OF THE PRELIMINARIES FOR THE 2005 TOKYO HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPETITION

ASAHINA

MAYBE I SHOULD . . .

. . .

TELL HER HOW I FEEL.

. . . . . .

I HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT SINCE SHE SHOT ME DOWN THE FIRST TIME...

I DEFINITELY HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING THAT WOULD MAKE HER LIKE ME MORE.

FWUMP

BUT SHE'S ALREADY TURNED ME DOWN ONCE...

I DON'T WANNA GET SHOT DOWN AGAIN.

EVEN IF I WERE TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL...

I BET NOTHING WOULD CHANGE.

ASAHINA SAID IT WAS BECAUSE WE'D ONLY KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A MONTH.

BUT I BET THE REAL REASON WAS . . .

BUT, I WONDER . . .

WHY SHE SHOT ME DOWN IN THE FIRST PLACE . . .

SUZUKA REALLY LOOKED UP TO HIM.

KAZUKI WAS A GRADE AHEAD OF SUZUKA. HE WAS THE STAR OF THE TRACK TEAM.

HE WAS FAMOUS FOR HIS TWO-FOOTED LAUNCH.

HE WAS KIND OF A LOCAL CELEBRITY.

I GUESS . . .

ASAHINA COULD NEVER GO FOR A GUY LIKE ME...

SWUP

. . . . . .

STILL IN . . .

I BET SHE'S STILL . . .

HII

CLOMP

WHAT ?!

ARE YOU STALKING SUZUKA-CHAN AGAIN?

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN DOING HERE?

I'VE GOT TIME...

WHEW, WE'RE UP REALLY HIGH.

YOU'D BETTER GET READY, MAN. YOU'RE GONNA BE UP SOON.

JUST CHECKING OUT THE BABES.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?

DAMN RIGHT. AND I WON'T STOP UNTIL I'VE CAPTURED THE HEART OF EVERY HOTTIE IN THE WORLD.

AT LEAST SOMEONE'S HAVING A GOOD TIME...

THAT CHICK'S A 78.

AND I'D GIVE THAT ONE A 60.

WOO

WOO

HUH.....?

HOW ABOUT YOU? HAV-ING FUN WITH THE TRACK STUFF?

YOU DON'T REALLY SEEM THAT HAPPY.

YOU'RE SO FAST THAT YOU GOT CHOSEN TO RUN THE RELAY, AND...

. . .

YOU'RE GETTING ALL THIS ATTENTION, BUT...

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FOOL ME WITH YOUR LIES?

YEAH IT IS.

. . .

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

I- I DON'T EVEN CARE ABOUT ASAHINA ANYMORE.

THE ONLY REASON YOU JOINED THE TRACK TEAM WAS TO GET CLOSE TO SUZUKA, RIGHT?

. . . . . .

SO, NOW WHAT'S THE DEAL?

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.

I MEAN, I STILL LIKE HER, BUT . . .

WHY? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SCARED JUST CAUSE SHE TURNED YOU DOWN ONCE?

BUT I COULDN'T GET ANYWHERE WITH HER NOW ANYWAY . . .

THAT'S NOT WHY...

. . . . . .

SHUT UP.

WHAT'S UP? YOU HERE TO CHECK OUT THE BABES, TOO?

OH, THERE YOU ARE, AKITSUKI.

MIYA-MOTO SENPAI.

I'M THE CAPTAIN NOW... STARTING WITH THIS COMPETITION.

I'M STILL A LITTLE NERVOUS.

SO, I JUST WANTED TO GET SOME FRESH AIR.

HYUU

アアア

HA HA, HARSH.

YEAH, WELL I GUESS YOU DON'T REALLY LOOK LIKE THE CAPTAIN TYPE, MIYAMOTO SENPAI.

KAZUKI TSUDA WHO SHOULD BE CAPTAIN, NOT ME.

OF COURSE IT'S REALLY . . .

TSUDA...

. . . WHAT ?

HE WENT TO THE SAME JUNIOR HIGH AS ASAHINA AND I.

BUT HE DIED IN A CAR ACCIDENT TWO YEARS AGO.

I GUESS YOU GUYS WOULDN'T KNOW HIM, HUH...?

SO ASAHINA AND HIM WERE ALWAYS FIGHTING.

HE WAS FULL OF PRIDE, BUT HE ALSO HAD A CLUMSY, CLUELESS SIDE, TOO.

AT HIS FINAL RACE, HE TOOK FIRST PLACE IN THE 100 METER DASH. FIRST IN THE WHOLE NATION.

BUT NOBODY TOOK TRACK AS SERIOUSLY AS HE DID.

...REALLY HELPED ME AND ASAHINA GET TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

YEAH...HE HAD HIS FAULTS, BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT I THINK KAZUKI TSUDA...

...WOW.

WHAT?

WH-WHAT ARE YOU—?

...SO, DO YOU THINK SUZUKA-CHAN HAD A CRUSH ON THE GUY?

HE MUSTA REALLY BEEN AMAZING.

YEAH…

SHE PROBABLY DID LIKE HIM.

…

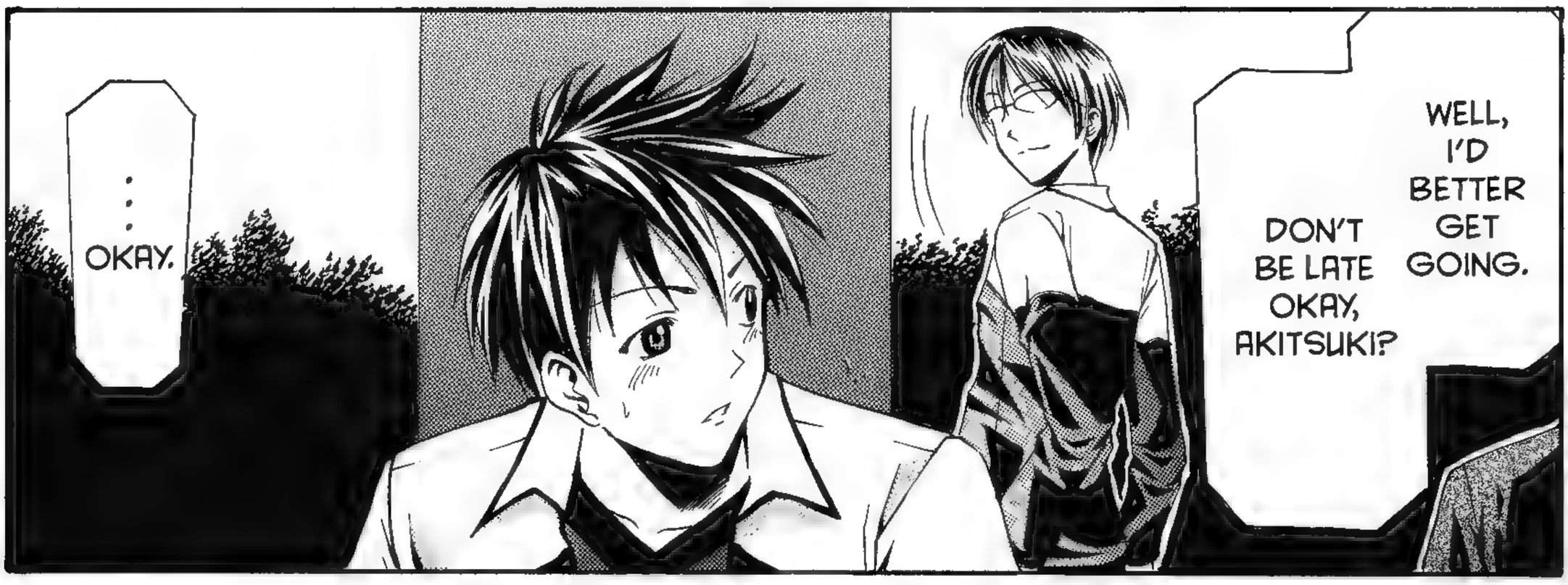
I KNOW SHE STILL VISITS HIS GRAVE FROM TIME TO TIME...

I THINK ASAHINA TOOK KAZUKI'S DEATH HARDER THAN ANYBODY.

HEY, DON'T TELL ASAHINA THAT I TOLD YOU GUYS ABOUT THIS, ALL RIGHT?

SHE'D BE TOTALLY PISSED.

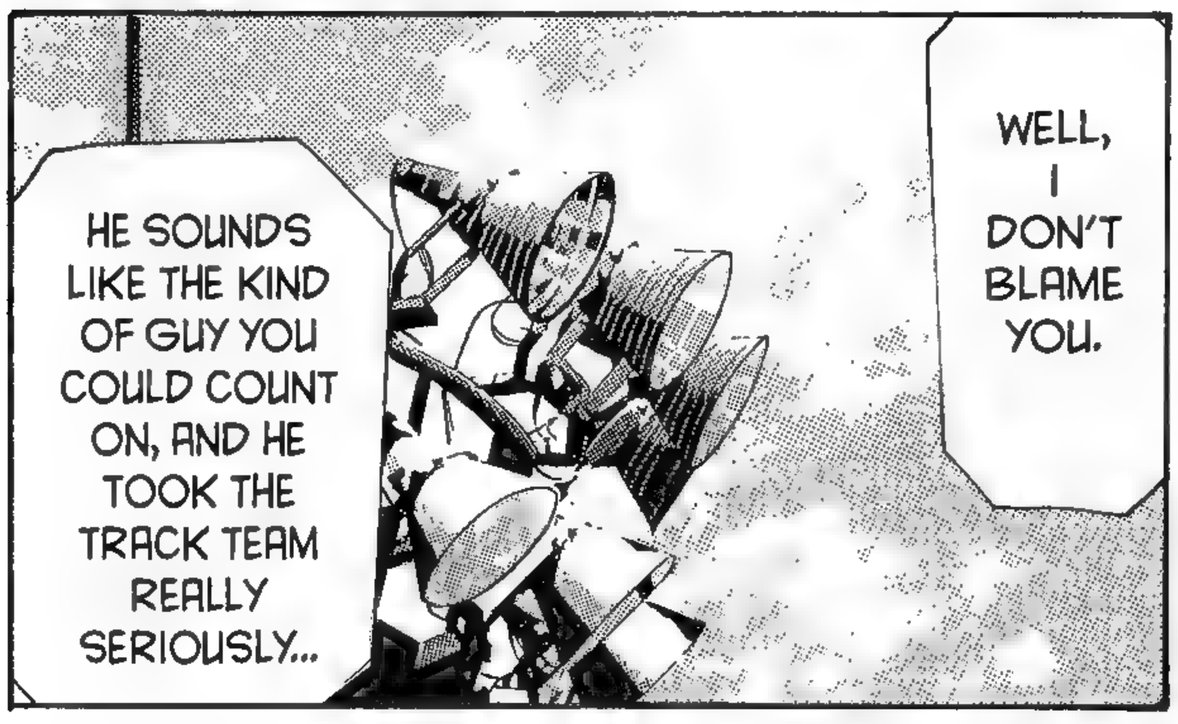
OKAY…


OKAY.
WELL, I'D BETTER GET GOING.
DON'T BE LATE OKAY, AKITSUKI?

I GET IT.

SHUT UP.

YOU FEEL LIKE, YOU CAN NEVER LIVE UP TO THIS TSUDA GUY...
...SO YOU FIGURE SHE'LL JUST KEEP SHOOTING YOU DOWN IF YOU TRY.


HE SOUNDS LIKE THE KIND OF GUY YOU COULD COUNT ON, AND HE TOOK THE TRACK TEAM REALLY SERIOUSLY...
WELL, I DON'T BLAME YOU.

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, A GUY LIKE YOU JUST CAN'T—

.....

ON TOP OF THAT, HE TOOK FIRST PLACE IN THE NATION.

SHUT UP, SHUT UP!!

OH... SHUT UP.

SHUUUUT UP!!

136

AH...

HE'S PROB-ABLY JUST CRAZY.

112

125

98

W-WHAT'S GOING ON? THAT GUY'S SCREAM-ING.

FAWUMP

I DUN-NO.

WHO IS THAT?

WHAT SCHOOL'S UNIFORM IS HE WEARING?

112

136

YAMATO-KUN.

...ALWAYS HAVE TO EMBARRASS ME LIKE THIS!

WHAT THE HELL IS HE DOING? WHY DOES HE...

YOU SCARED THE SHIT OUTTA ME!

W-WHAT THE HELL'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

I'M AWARE OF THAT.

IN HER EYES, I'LL NEVER BE HALF THE GUY HE WAS.

ASAHINA STILL LIKES TSUDA AND...

LISTEN, I KNOW ALL THAT...

...ALREADY, OKAY.

WHAT I SHOULD DO!!

THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT.

DID YOU COME UP WITH ANY IDEAS?

AND?

HUH ?

I'M DONE WITH SITTING AROUND AND WORRYING ABOUT IT...

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND... I'M GONNA BE THE NUMBER ONE ATHLETE IN ALL OF JAPAN!!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SHUT UP!

I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT...

I JUST FEEL LIKE... THAT'S WHAT I HAVE TO DO!!

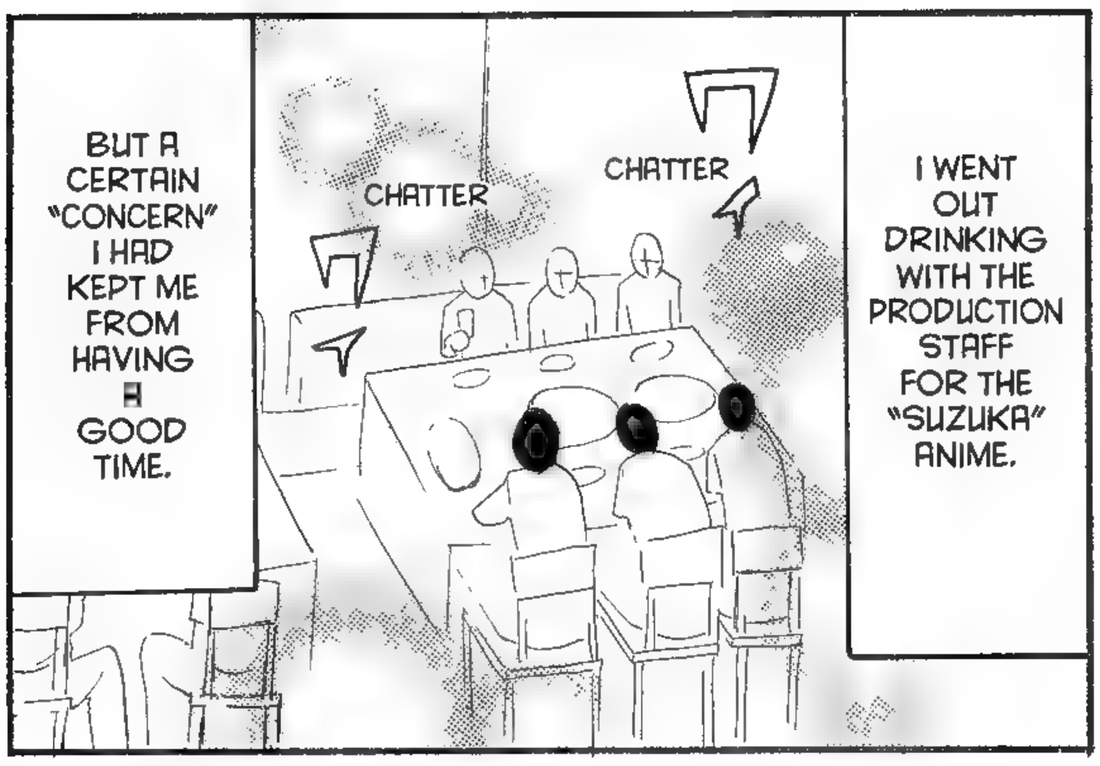
ALL RUNNERS TO THE TRACK IMMEDIATELY.

ATTENTION PLEASE. THE MEN'S 100 METER PRELIMINARY RACE WILL BEGIN MOMENTARILY.

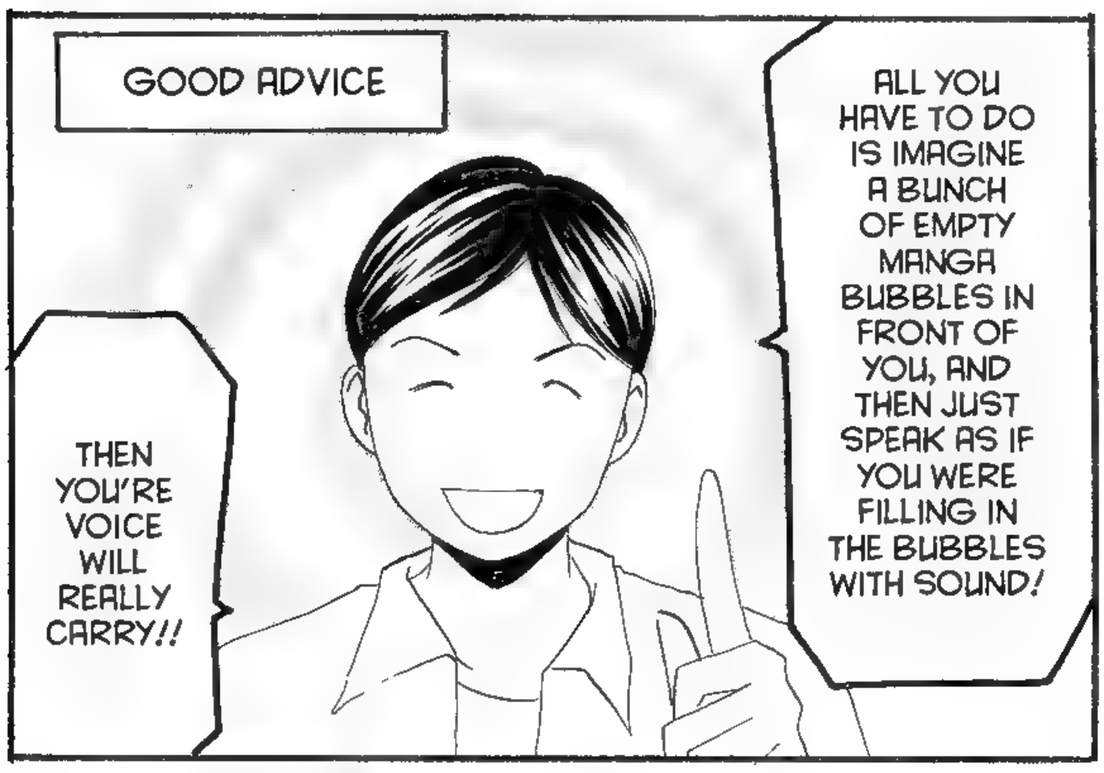
CONTINUED IN BOOK 8

SPECIAL BONUS MANGA

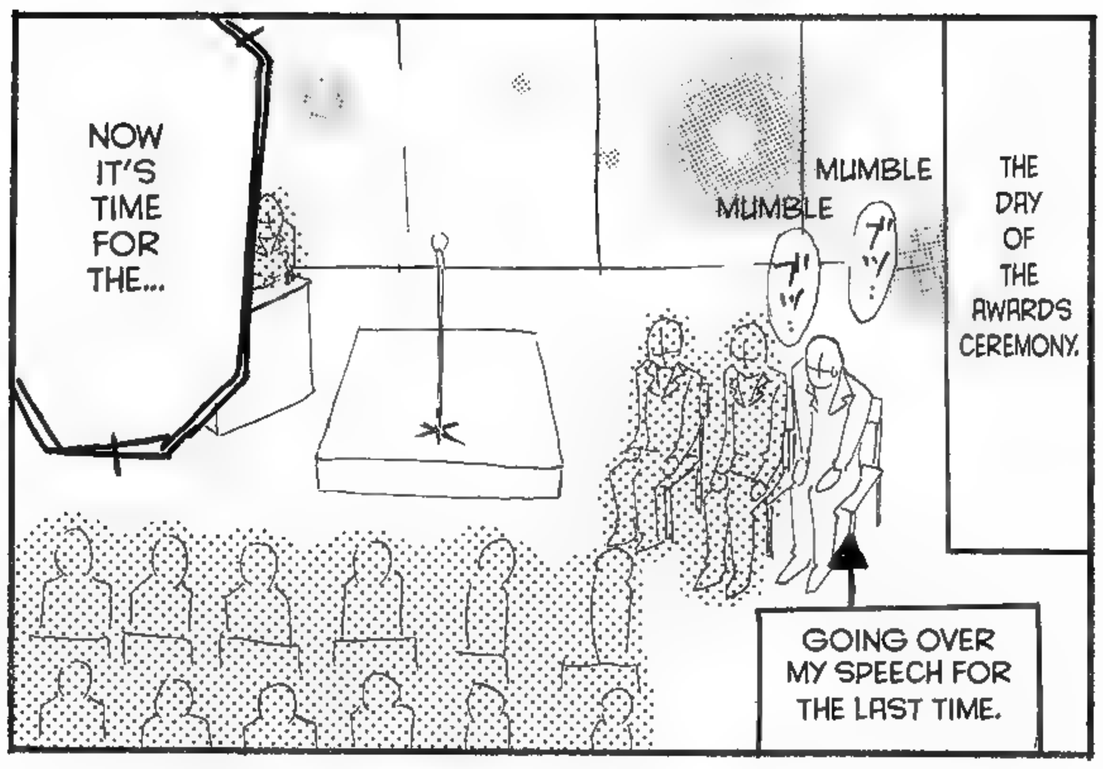
PLEASE DON'T DRAG ME OUT IN PUBLIC (DAY 1)


BUT A CERTAIN "CONCERN" I HAD KEPT ME FROM HAVING A GOOD TIME.
CHATTER
CHATTER
I WENT OUT DRINKING WITH THE PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THE "SUZUKA" ANIME.

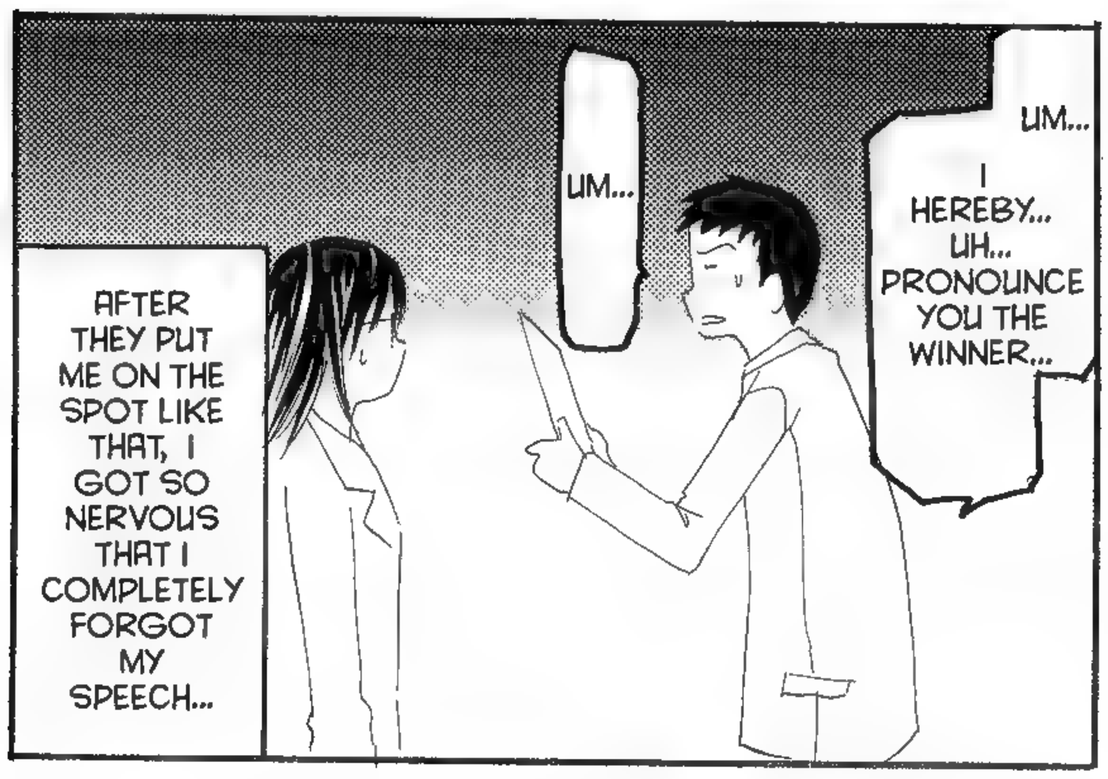
UM...WELL... THE THING IS THAT I HAVE TO GIVE A SPEECH AT THE "NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR" AWARDS TOMORROW... AND I'M REALLY BAD AT SPEAKING IN PUBLIC.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD. ARE YOU NERVOUS ABOUT SOMETHING?
VOICE-OVER DIRECTOR, YUJI MITSUYA.

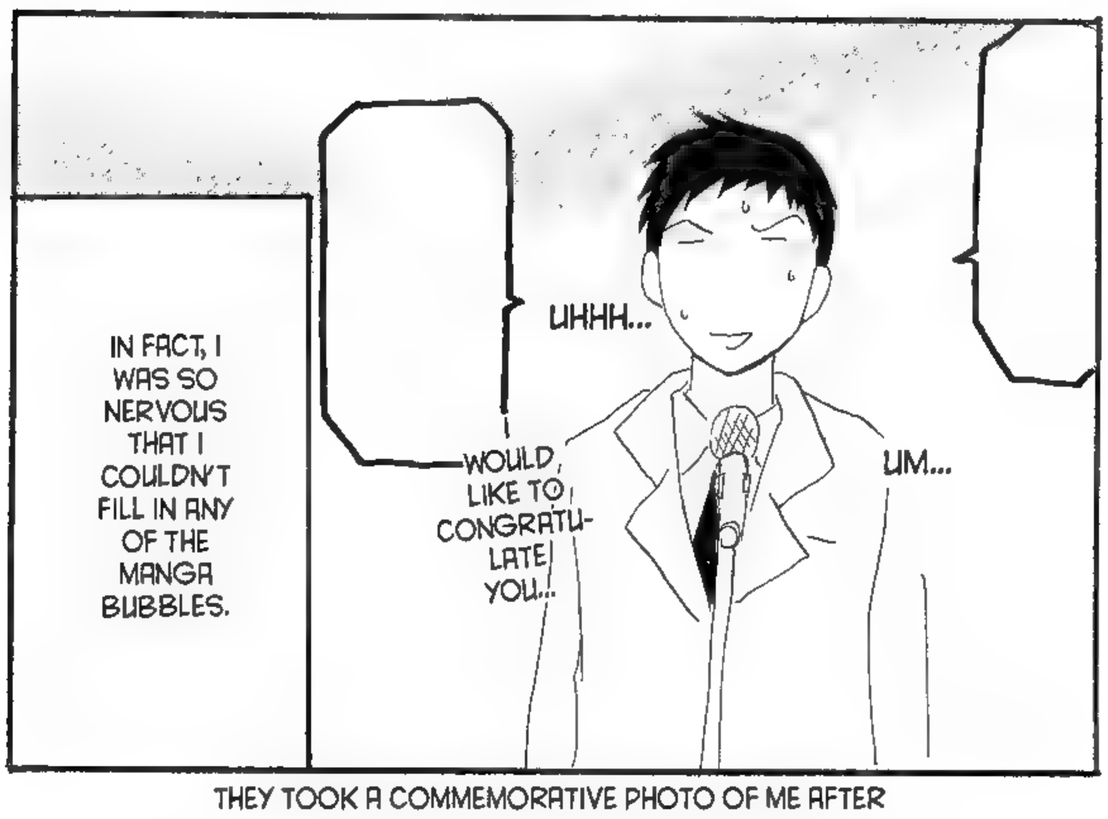

GOOD ADVICE
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS IMAGINE A BUNCH OF EMPTY MANGA BUBBLES IN FRONT OF YOU, AND THEN JUST SPEAK AS IF YOU WERE FILLING IN THE BUBBLES WITH SOUND!
THEN YOU'RE VOICE WILL REALLY CARRY!!

DAY 2



WHAT?! WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT? NOBODY TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!
...KOUJI SEO AWARD. MR. SEO HIMSELF WILL PRESENT THE WINNER WITH A COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE.

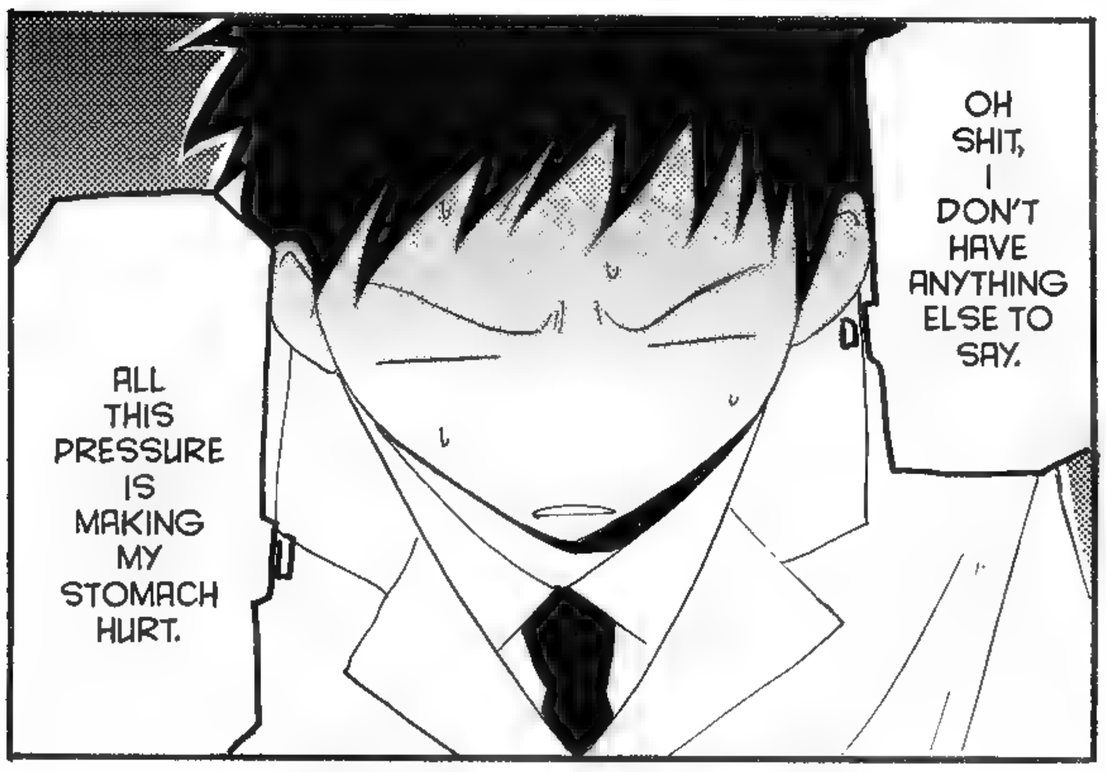

AFTER THEY PUT ME ON THE SPOT LIKE THAT, I GOT SO NERVOUS THAT I COMPLETELY FORGOT MY SPEECH...
UM...
UM... I HEREBY... UH... PRONOUNCE YOU THE WINNER...

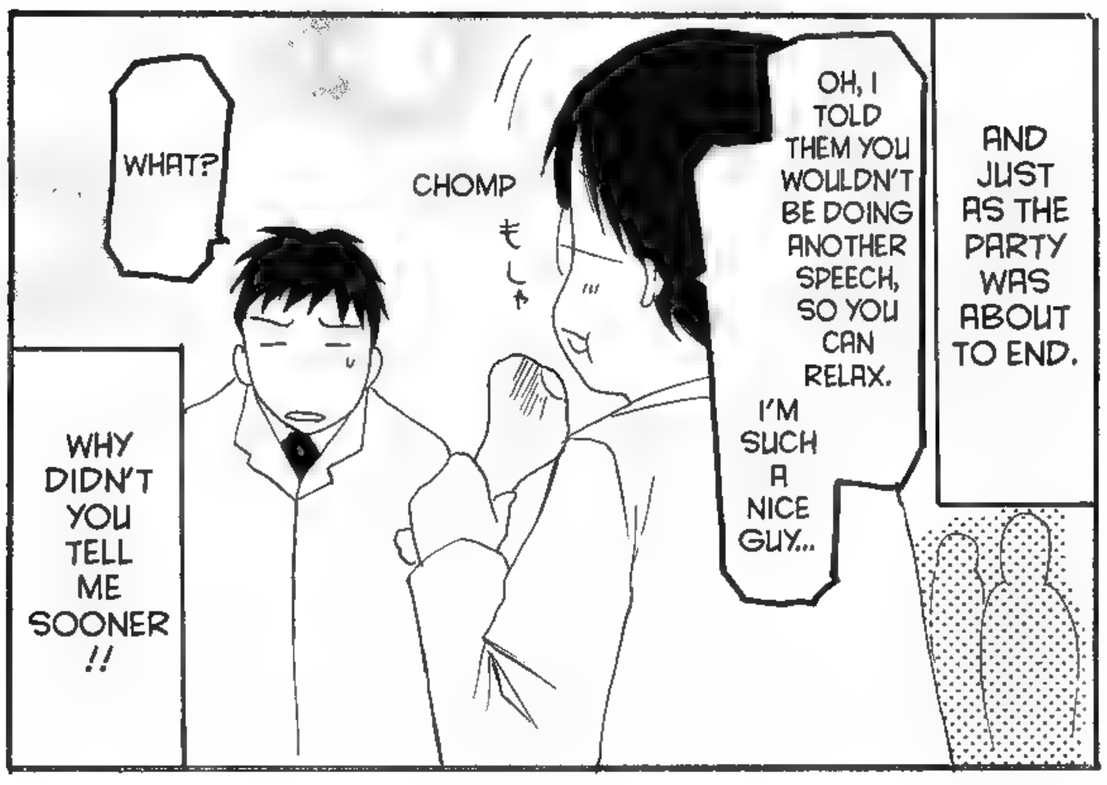


THEY TOOK A COMMEMORATIVE PHOTO OF ME AFTER THAT AND I LOOKED TOTALLY TENSE.

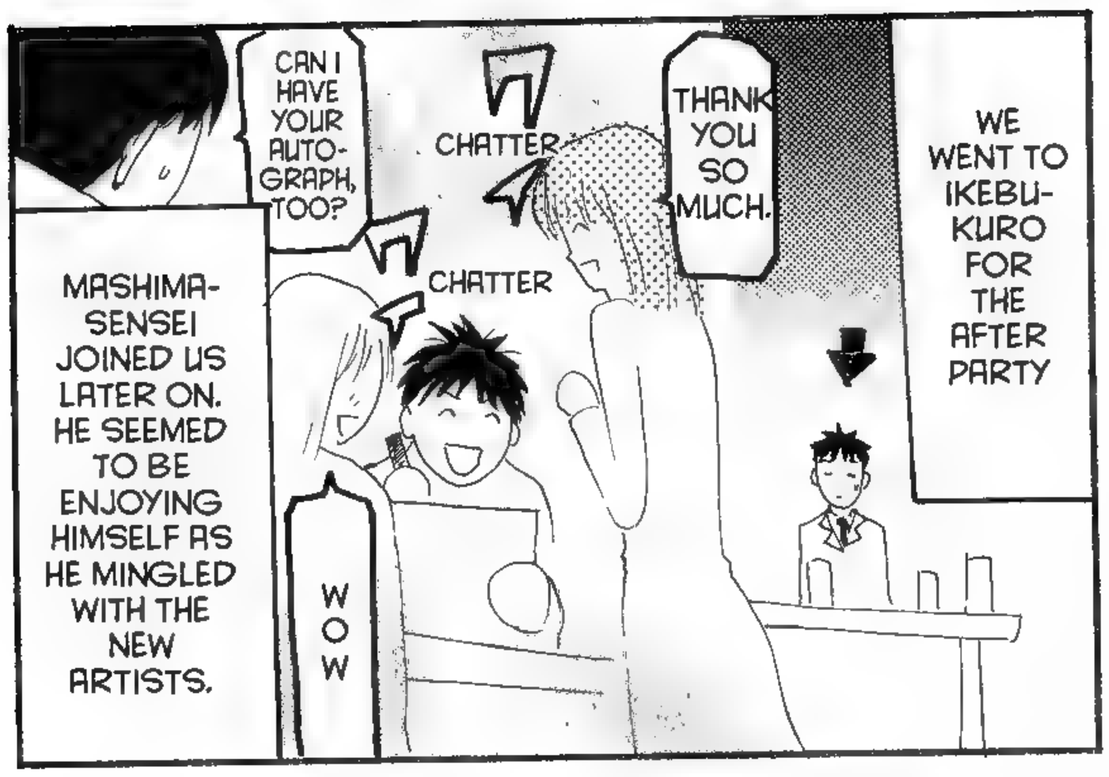
HEY, SEO-KUN.
F-FINALLY I CAN RELAX AND EAT...
AFTER THE CEREMONY THERE WAS A DINNER BUFFET.

WHAT? NOBODY TOLD ME THAT!!
THEY GOT ME AGAIN.
YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER SPEECH COMING UP AT THE END OF THE PARTY.


ALL THIS PRESSURE IS MAKING MY STOMACH HURT.
OH SHIT, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY.


WHAT?
CHOMP
もしゃ
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER !!
OH, I TOLD THEM YOU WOULDN'T BE DOING ANOTHER SPEECH, SO YOU CAN RELAX.
I'M SUCH A NICE GUY...
AND JUST AS THE PARTY WAS ABOUT TO END.

THE AFTER PARTY


WE WENT TO IKEBU-KURO FOR THE AFTER PARTY
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
CHATTER
CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTO-GRAPH, TOO?
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MASHIMA-SENSEI JOINED US LATER ON. HE SEEMED TO BE ENJOYING HIMSELF AS HE MINGLED WITH THE NEW ARTISTS.
WOW

AND AS IF THAT WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH...
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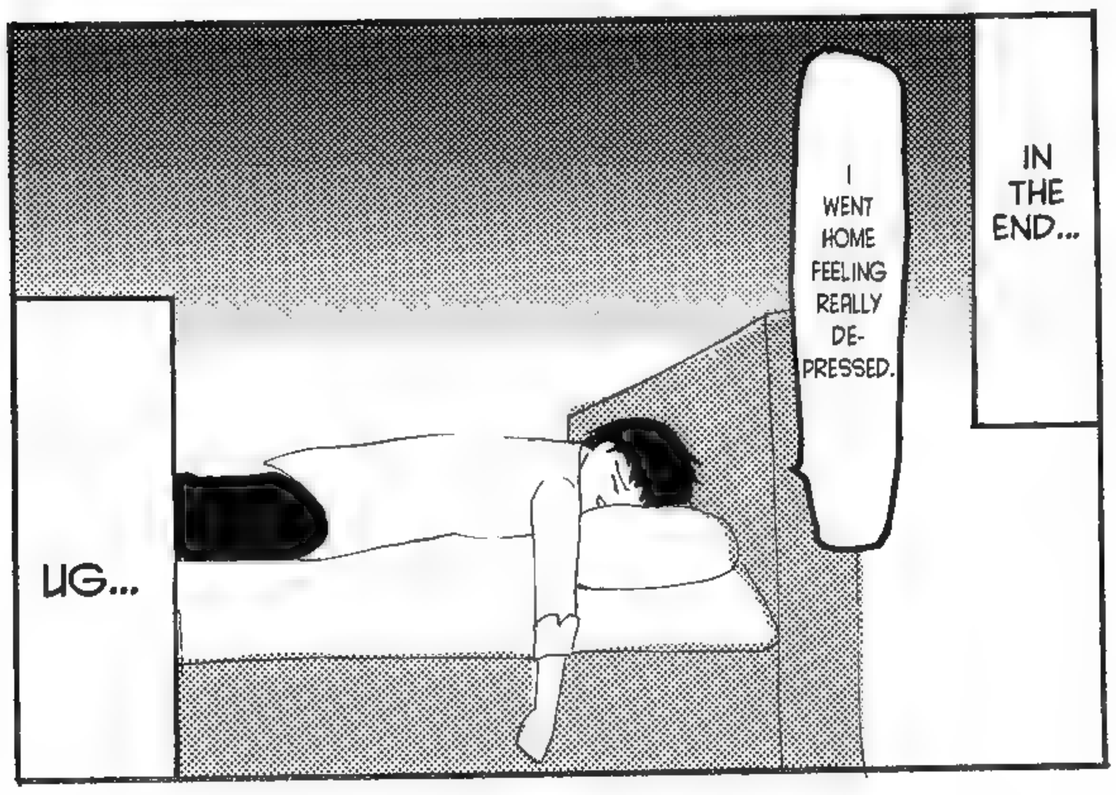
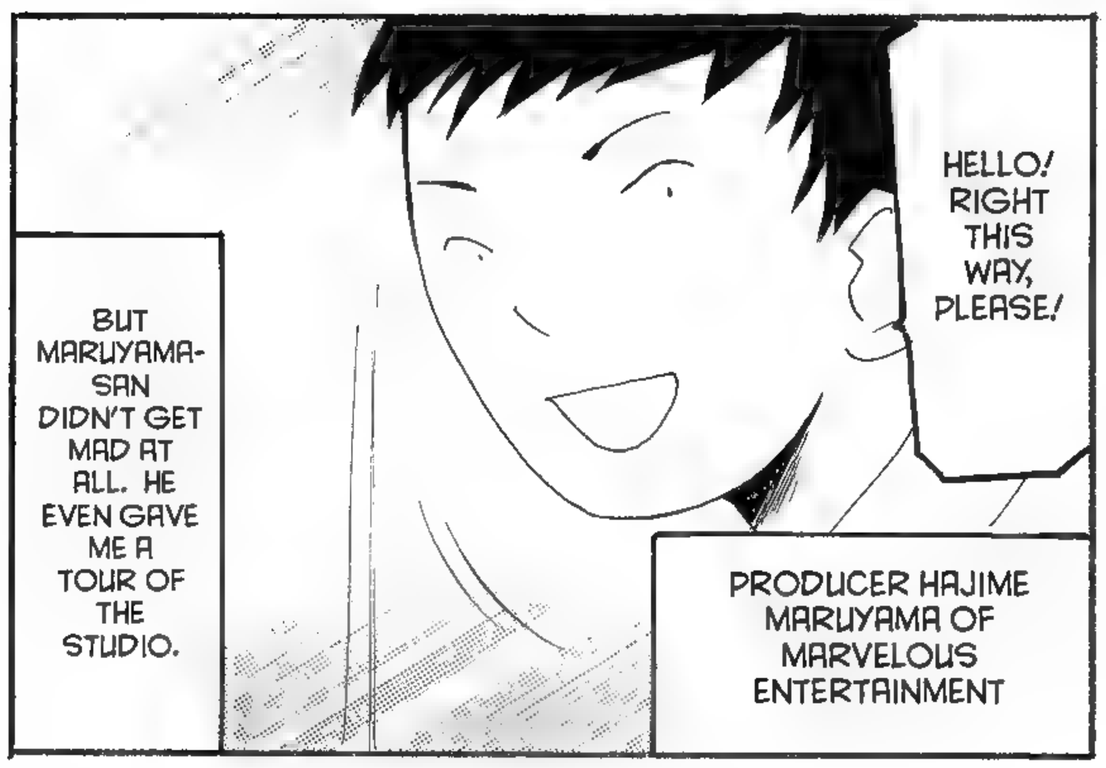
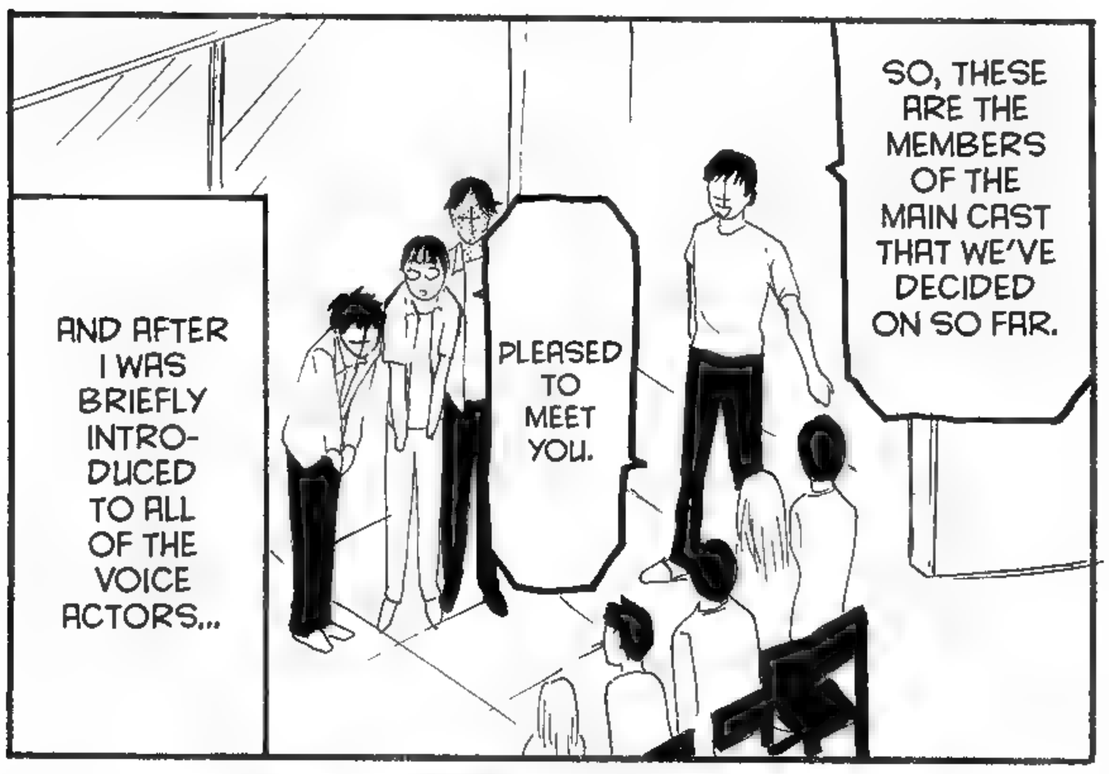
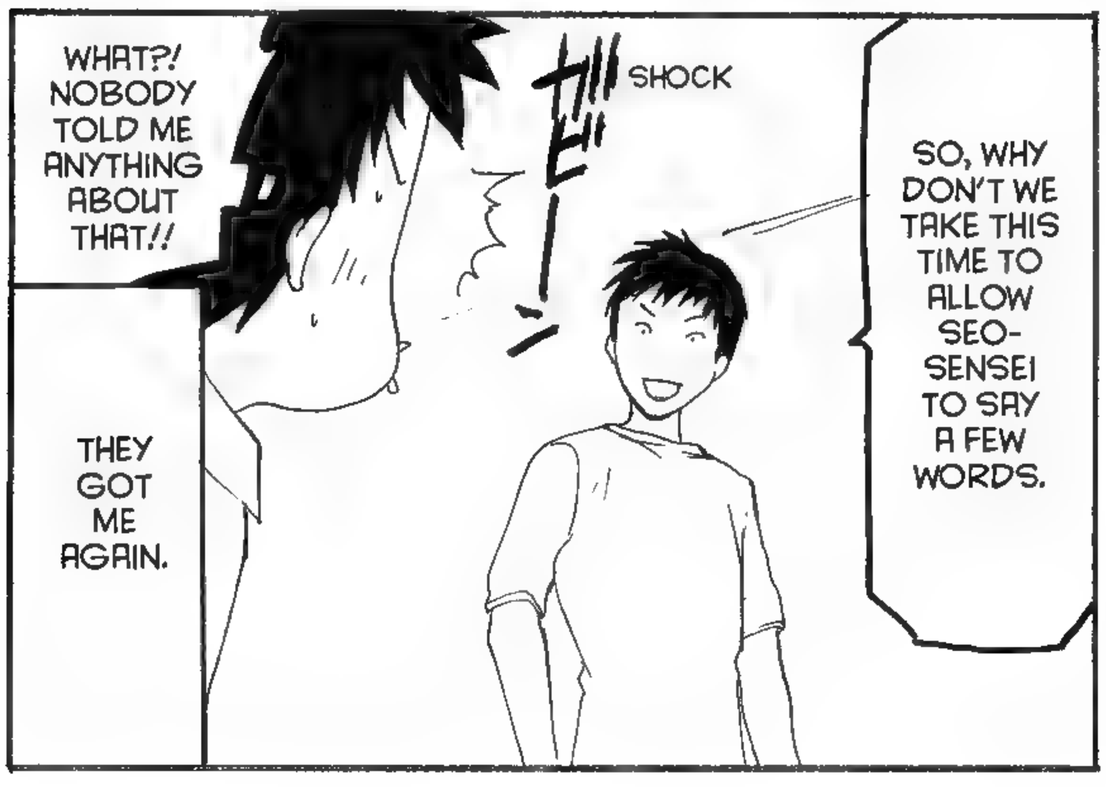


THE THIRD DAY

HARAJUKU
はらじゅく
PULL YOUR-SELF TO-GETHER, SEO-SAN!
I WAS TWENTY MINUTES LATE.
OH, BROTH-ER.
SORRY I'M LATE. I COULDN'T SLEEP AT ALL LAST NIGHT 'CAUSE I WAS ALL DE-PRESSED.
I WAS SUPPOSED TO GO VISIT THE RECORDING STUDIO THE NEXT DAY.

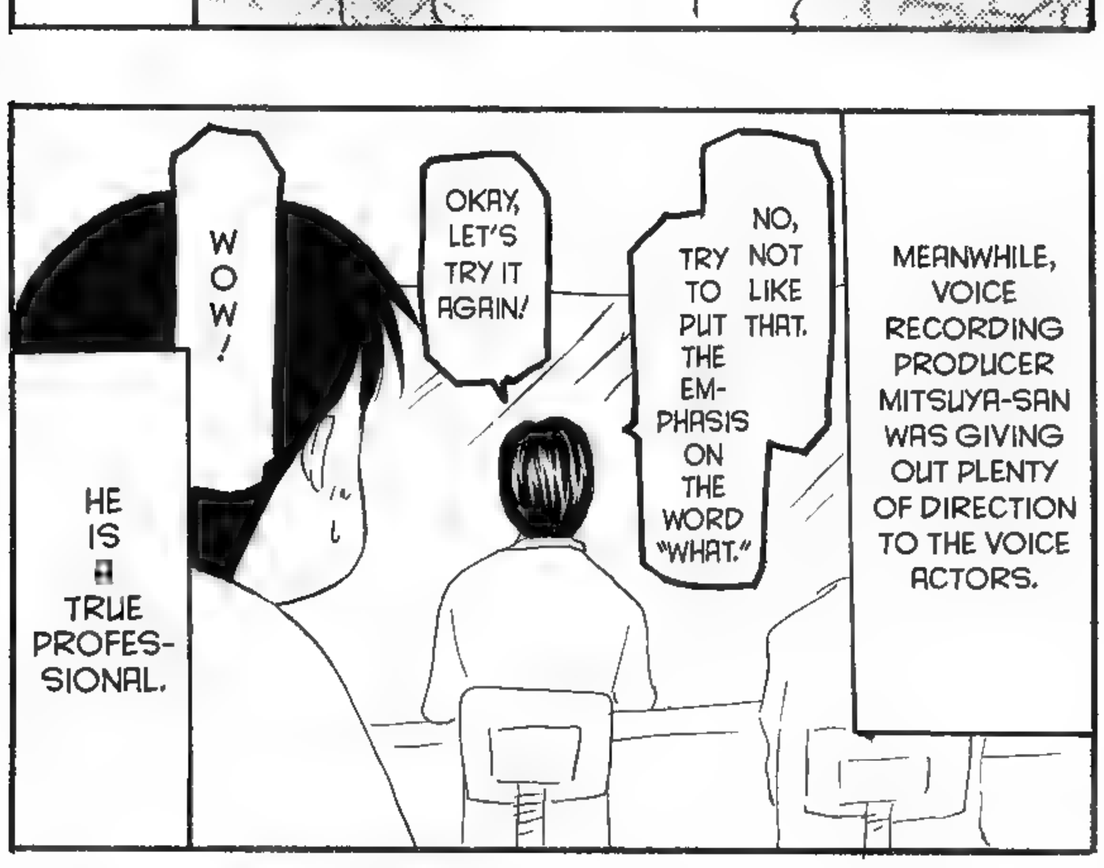

BUT MARUYAMA-SAN DIDN'T GET MAD AT ALL. HE EVEN GAVE ME A TOUR OF THE STUDIO.
HELLO! RIGHT THIS WAY, PLEASE!
PRODUCER HAJIME MARUYAMA OF MARVELOUS ENTERTAINMENT

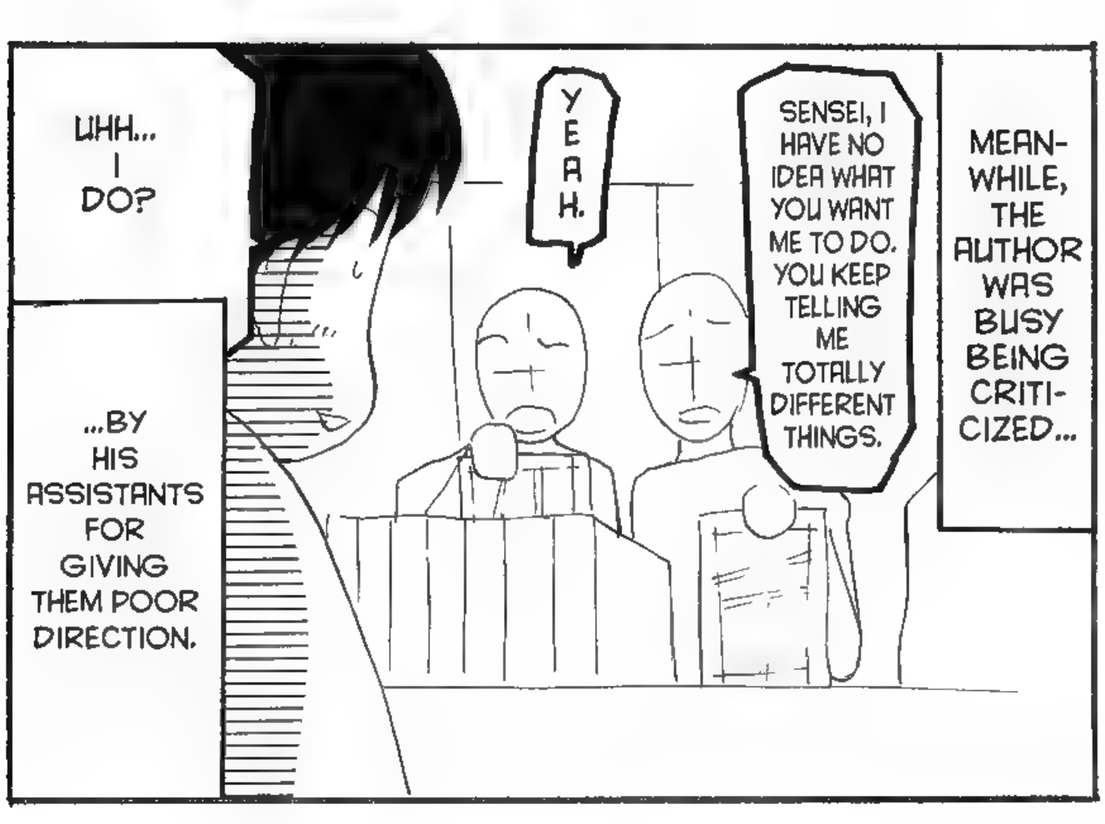

AND AFTER I WAS BRIEFLY INTRO-DUCED TO ALL OF THE VOICE ACTORS...
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
SO, THESE ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE MAIN CAST THAT WE'VE DECIDED ON SO FAR.


WHAT?! NOBODY TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!!
SHOCK
THEY GOT ME AGAIN.
SO, WHY DON'T WE TAKE THIS TIME TO ALLOW SEO-SENSEI TO SAY A FEW WORDS.

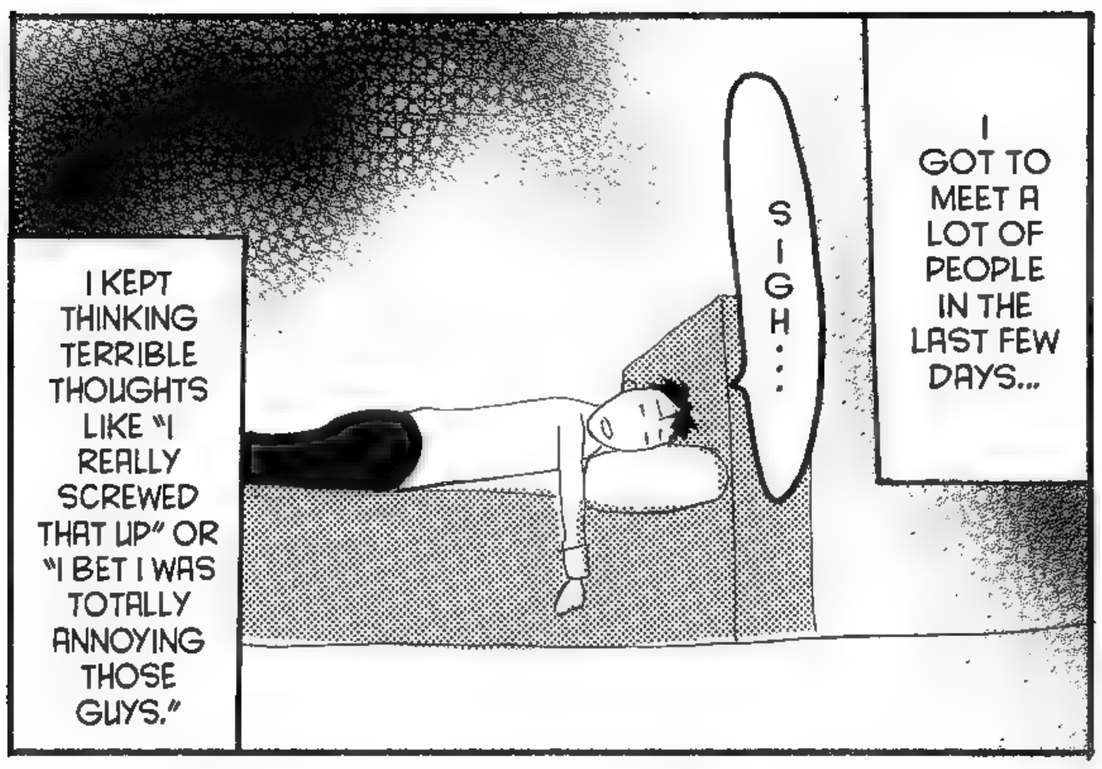
SUDDENLY THE AIR BECAME THICK WITH TENSION.
OKAY, LET'S DO A REAL TAKE NOW.
AT THE VOICE-OVER SES-SION.

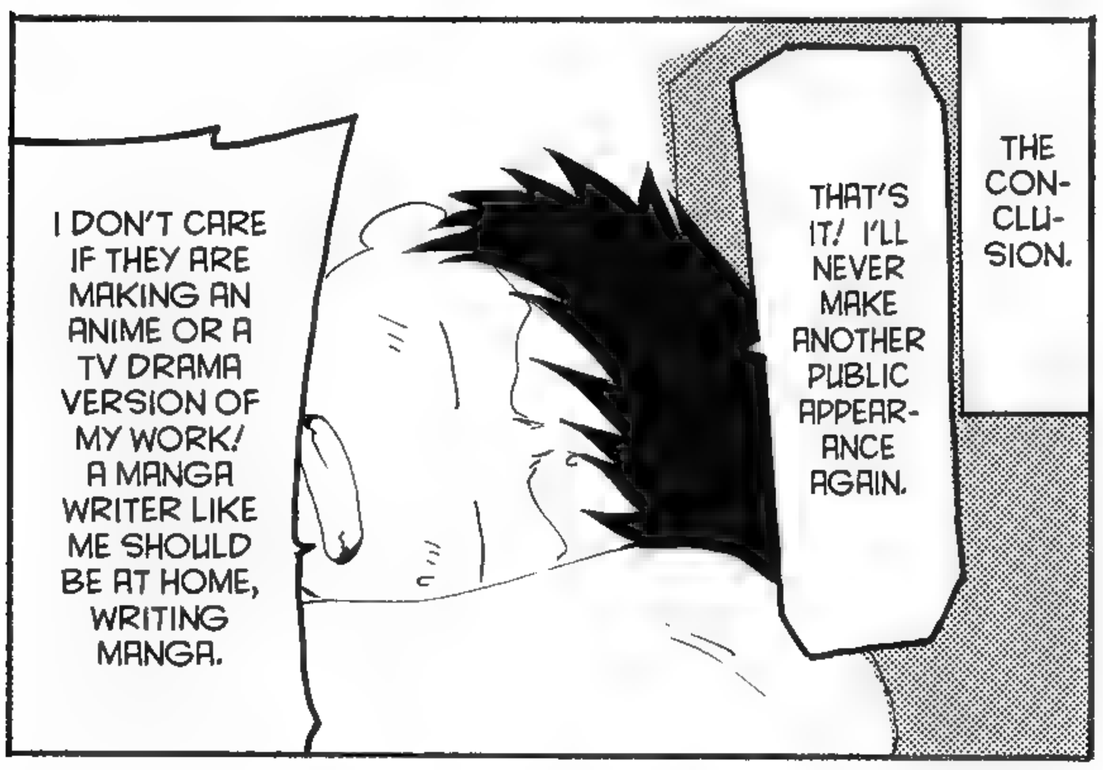
...A SCHOOL-BOY ON HIS FIRST FIELD TRIP.
COOL.
WOW!
THE WRITER WAS AS GIDDY AS...


HE IS A TRUE PROFES-SIONAL.
WOW!
OKAY, LET'S TRY IT AGAIN!
NO, NOT LIKE THAT. TRY TO PUT THE EM-PHASIS ON THE WORD "WHAT."
MEANWHILE, VOICE RECORDING PRODUCER MITSUYA-SAN WAS GIVING OUT PLENTY OF DIRECTION TO THE VOICE ACTORS.


UHH... I DO?
...BY HIS ASSISTANTS FOR GIVING THEM POOR DIRECTION.
YEAH.
SENSEI, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO. YOU KEEP TELLING ME TOTALLY DIFFERENT THINGS.
MEAN-WHILE, THE AUTHOR WAS BUSY BEING CRITI-CIZED...

THE FOURTH DAY


I KEPT THINKING TERRIBLE THOUGHTS LIKE "I REALLY SCREWED THAT UP" OR "I BET I WAS TOTALLY ANNOYING THOSE GUYS."
SIGH...
I GOT TO MEET A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS...


I DON'T CARE IF THEY ARE MAKING AN ANIME OR A TV DRAMA VERSION OF MY WORK! A MANGA WRITER LIKE ME SHOULD BE AT HOME, WRITING MANGA.
THAT'S IT! I'LL NEVER MAKE ANOTHER PUBLIC APPEAR-ANCE AGAIN.
THE CON-CLU-SION.

TO BE CONTINUED . . . ?

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Okonomiyaki and *Monja*, Page 102

Okonomiyaki is often referred to as a Japanese pancake. It's made of batter and a mixture of meat, vegetables, egg, and sometimes noodles. At most *okonomiyaki* restaurants your table will have a built-in grill, and you can cook your own *okonomiyaki* right at the table. *Monja* has similar ingredients, but it isn't pancake shaped and is generally a bit runnier.

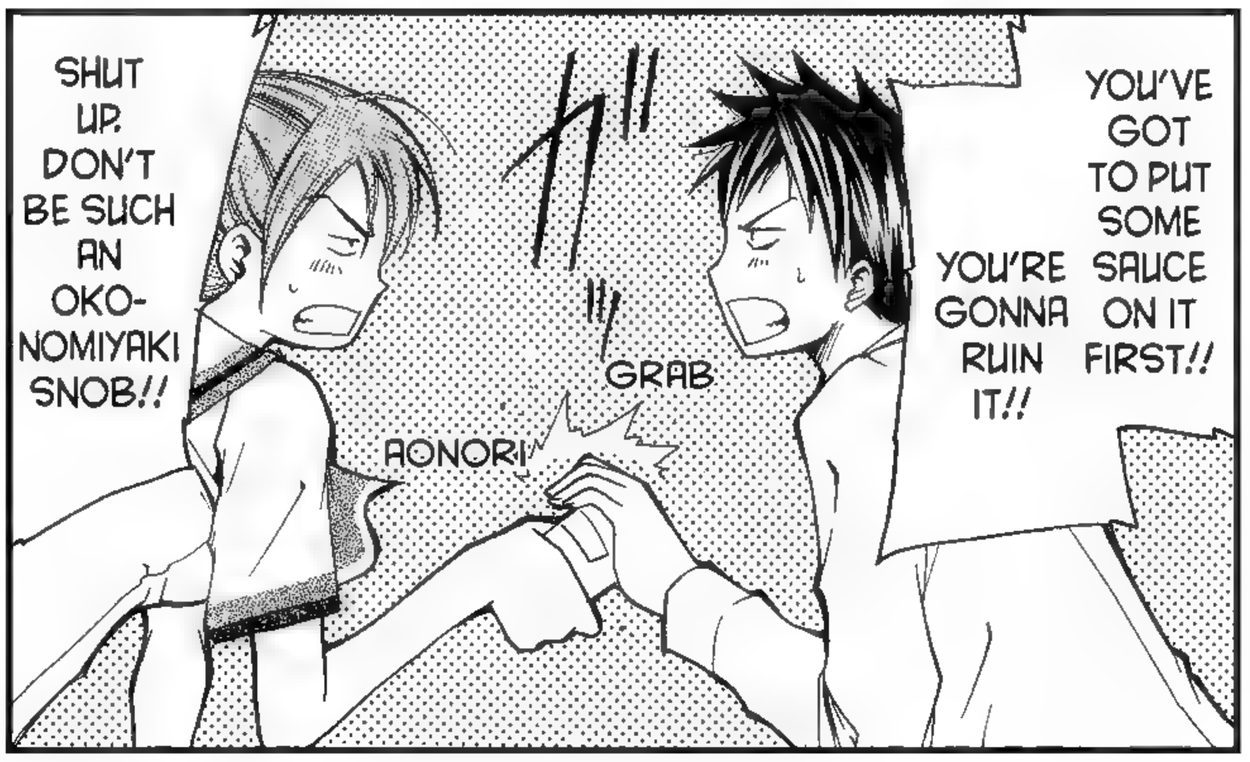
Kansai vs Hiroshima, Page 104

There are two *okonomiyaki* meccas in Japan—Kansai (Osaka) and Hiroshima. Hiroshima style often comes with noodles mixed in and sometimes has a fried egg on top.

OKONOMIYAKIMONJA
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M A PRO!!
YOU'RE FROM HIRO-SHIMA, SO WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?!
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE KANSAI-STYLE, YOU KNOW?!

Aonori and other toppings, Page 104

After it's done, *okonomiyaki* is generally slathered with sauce and mayonnaise and then sprinkled with fish flakes and *aonori* seaweed.



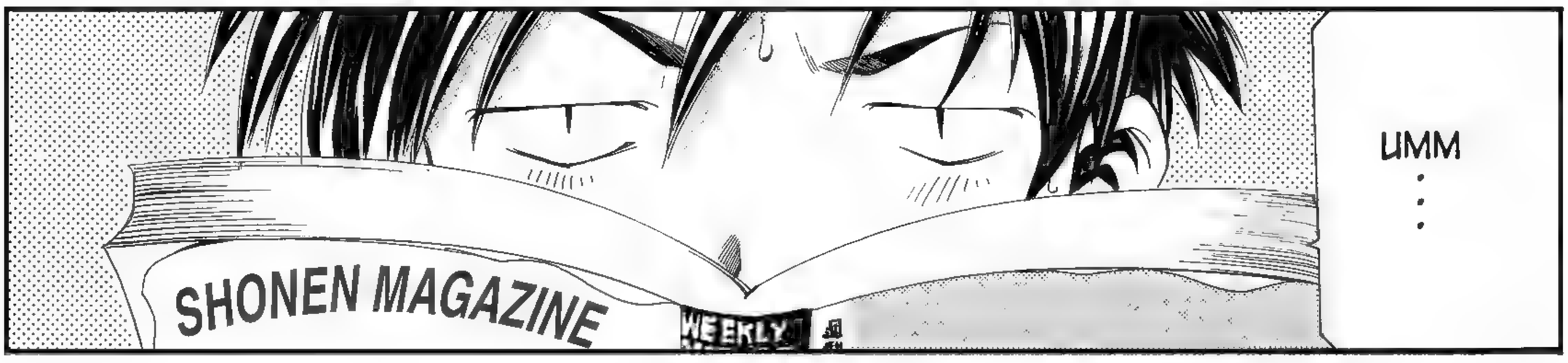
Mold, Page 152

Japan is a very humid place, particularly during the hot and rainy summer. Clothes really do get moldy if you leave them piled up for too long.

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? PILING UP ALL YOUR DIRTY LAUNDRY LIKE THIS.
IT'S GONNA GET ALL MOLDY!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? I'M TOO BUSY WITH PRACTICE TO DO LAUNDRY.

Shonen Magazine, Page 155

Yamato is reading *Shonen Magazine*, a very popular *shonen* weekly manga magazine published by Kodansha.



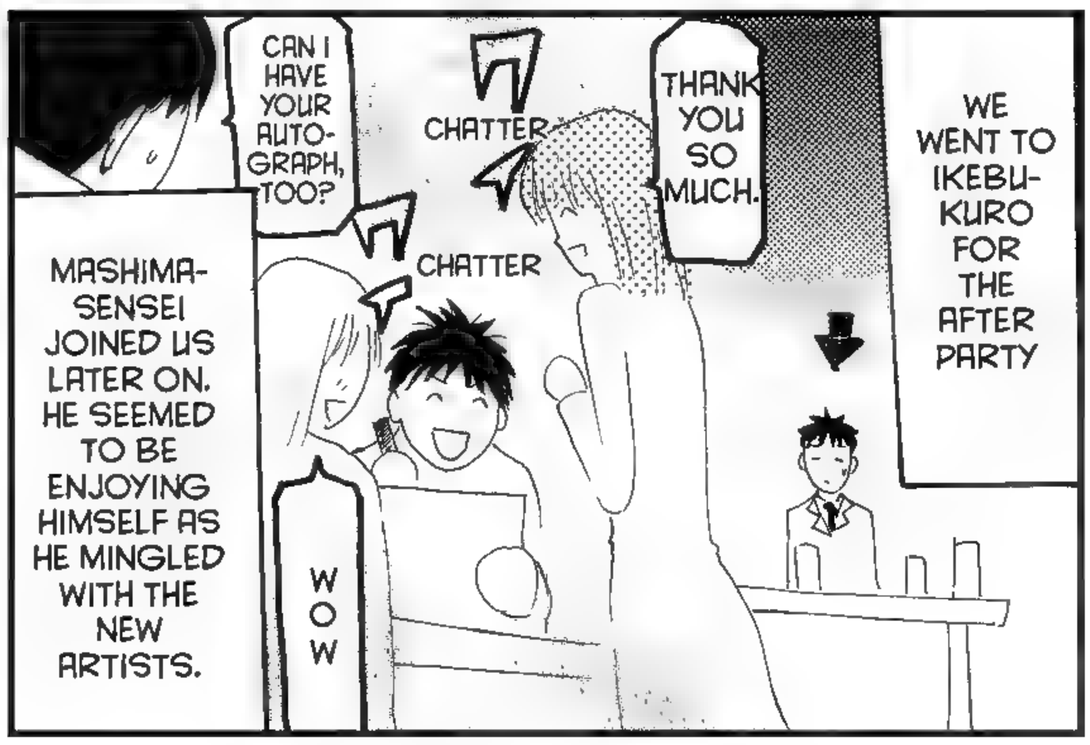
Hajime no Ippo, Page 156

Hajime no Ippo is a wildly popular boxing manga that runs in *Shonen Magazine*

SHONEN MAGAZINE
I'M BETTING ON . . .
HEY, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN IN THE BIG FIGHT BETWEEN MASHIBA AND SAWAMURA IN THE "HAJIME NO IPPO" MANGA?

Mashima-sensei, Page 186

This is probably a reference to Hiro Mashima, who is known for the *Shonen Magazine* titles *Rave Master* and *Fairy Tail*. *Fairy Tail* is coming to you in English in April 2008, courtesy of Del Rey!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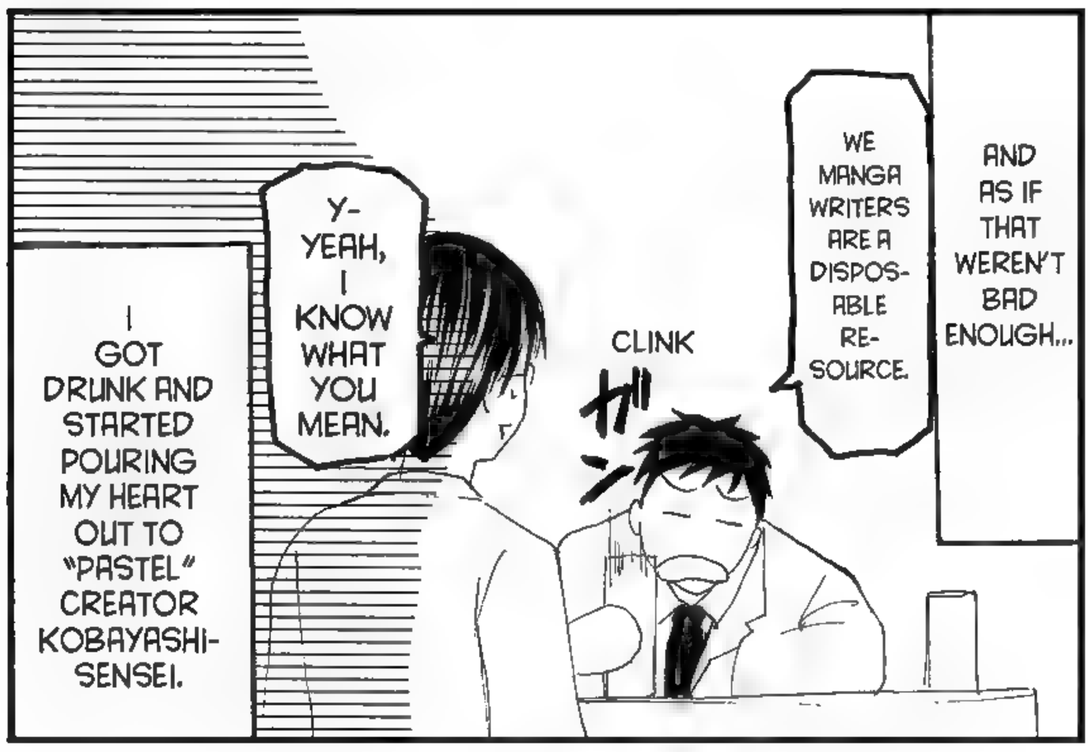
WOW

Pastel, Page 186

Pastel is another popular Kodansha *shonen* title about a typical high school kid who ends up living with the girl he's got a crush on. Look for Del Rey's English version of *Pastel* in your local bookshop.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AND AS IF THAT WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH...

Preview of Volume 8

We're pleased to present you with a preview of volume 8. Please check our website (www.delreymanga.com) to see when this volume will be available in English. For now you'll have to make do with Japanese!

オレが何でこんな必死なのか知りもしないで…

ギュッ!!

勝手なことばっか言って…

もういい!!帰るよ!!

あ…

ま…待ちなさいよ!!

ガッ!!

ガッ!!

ねェ…

あの…

ちょっと!!

ガッ

は・・・・？

・・・・・・・・・・

待ってよ・・・・

ゴメン……
私(わたし)　そんなつもりで
言(い)ったんじゃ
ないから……

え……

だから……

そんなに
怒(おこ)んないでよ

え……いや……

別(べつ)に……
怒(おこ)っては
ないけど……

Gacha Gacha

THE NEXT REVOLUTION

Hiroyuki Tamakoshi

JUST ONE OF THE GIRLS

A whole new Gacha Gacha story line begins! Akira Hatsushiba is just your typical, average high school kid . . . until a glitch in a Gacha Gacha video game changes his life forever. Now, every time Akira sneezes, his entire body undergoes a gender-bending switcheroo! That's right, Akira is always just an *achoo* away from getting in touch with his feminine side. But it's not all bad. Akira has had a crush on Yurika Sakuraba ever since he first laid eyes on her. He's always been too shy, but now that he can change into a girl, Akira finally has a chance to get close to Yurika. Being a girl certainly has its advantages!

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RATING M AGES 18+

DEL REY DEL REY MANGA デルレイ

The Otaku's Choice

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Pastel

by Toshihiko Kobayashi

I LOVE YUU

Poor 16-year-old Mugi Tadano is left heartbroken after his girlfriend moves away. A summer job at his friend Kazuki's beachside snack bar/hotel seems like the perfect way to get his mind off the breakup. Soon Kazuki sets Mugi up on a date with a girl named Yuu, who's supposed to be...well...a little less than perfect. But when Yuu arrives, she's not the monster that either of the boys had imagined. In fact, Yuu is about the cutest girl that Mugi has ever seen. But after Mugi accidentally walks in on Yuu while she's in the bath, Yuu is furious. When Mugi goes to apologize the next day, he learns that Yuu has left the island. Mugi vows to search high and low for her, but will he ever see the beautiful Yuu again?

Ages: 16+

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Psycho Busters

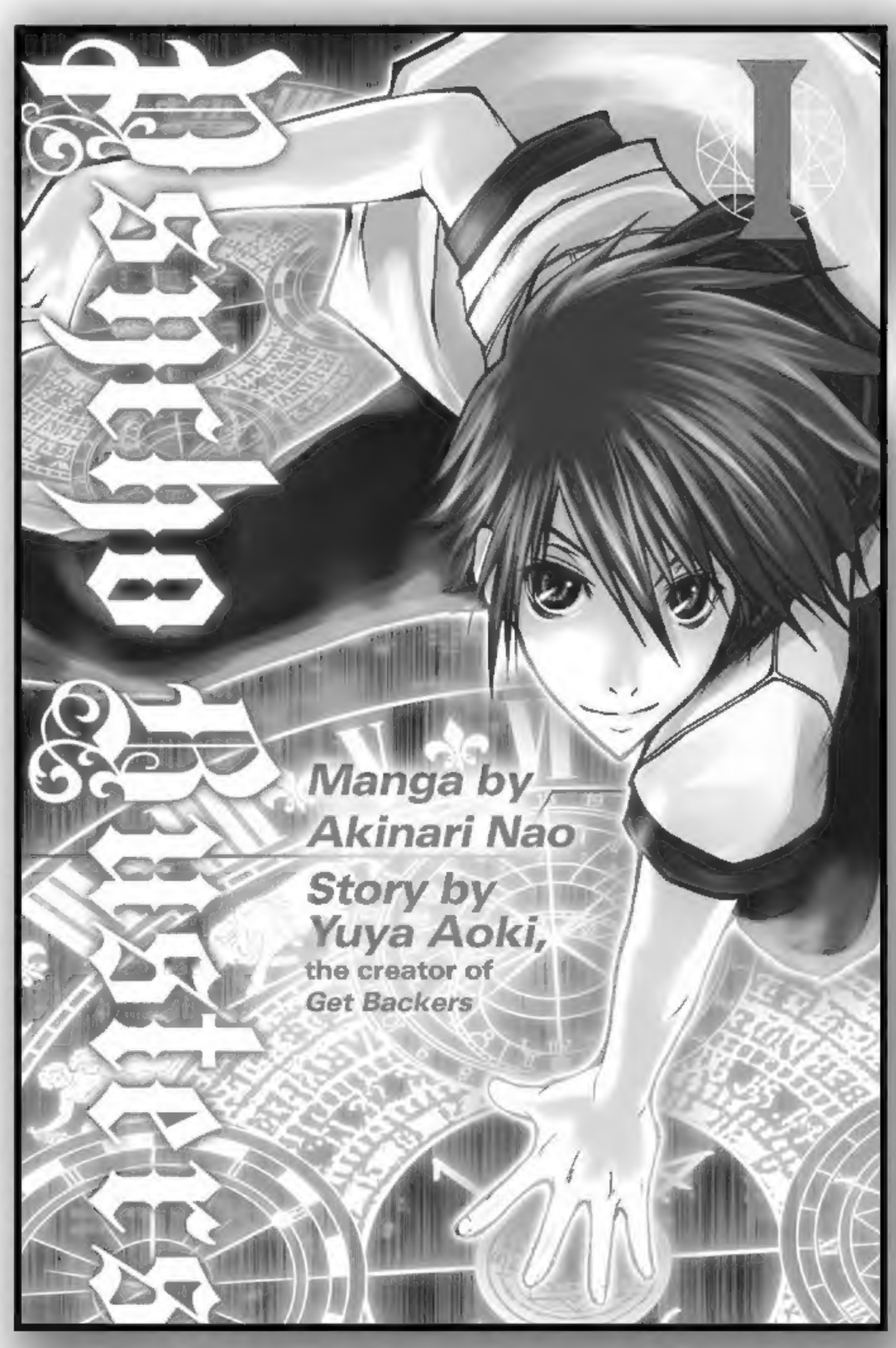
Manga by Akinari Nao
Story by Yuya Aoki

PSYCHIC TEENS ON THE RUN!

Out of the blue, a beautiful girl asks Kakeru to run away with her. This could be any boy's dream come true, but there's something strange afoot.

It turns out that this girl is on the run from a shadowy government organization intent on using her psychic abilities for its own nefarious ends. But why does she need Kakeru's help? Could it be that he has secret powers, too?

- **Story by Yuya Aoki, creator of *Get Backers***



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Suzuka 7

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